J. Stuart Esqre
with Mr. Flemings Compts.

# LETTERS

OF THE

# MARQUIS WELLESLEY,

RESPECTING THE

# COLLEGE

OF

# FORT WILLIAM.

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# PREFACE.

THE trade with India appears to occupy so much of the public attention, at the present moment, as to excite an apprehension, that other points, connected with the VITAL INTERESTS of our empire in India, may escape the consideration of those, who are disposed to take an interest in the approaching discussion of the COMPANY'S CHARTER.

The following pages contain a statement of the principles, which induced the MARQUIS WELLESLEY to found a COLLEGE at CALCUTTA. That institution, even in its present mutilated

state, has produced the most important benefits* to the public service in India, and will undoubtedly receive the support of MR. WHITBREAD, MR. WILBERFORCE, and of all those members of both Houses of Parliament, who have taken so active a part in meliorating the condition of the human race. These liberal and public-spirited statesmen will *not* abandon an institution, which was intended to afford the most effectual means of preserving and securing to FIFTY MILLIONS of people, that *primary* object of all good government,—AN IMPARTIAL ADMINISTRATION of JUST LAW. Nor will Lord Grenville, nor Mr. Canning, nor the numerous friends of literature in this country, refuse their countenance to an establishment, which, if duly supported, holds out the most generous encouragement to men of talents and erudition, and has *already* instructed

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* Vide the speeches of Lord Minto, the present Governor-General of India, and of General Hewitt.

so many of the public servants in India in the language, history, laws, religion, and LEARNING of the people, whom they are destined to govern.

With these sentiments, the Publisher offers to the consideration of the Legislature,

First,—A statement of the reasons, which induced the MARQUIS WELLESLEY to found a COLLEGIATE INSTITUTION at Fort William.

Second,—The REGULATION for the foundation of the College.

Third,—The Orders of the COURT OF DIRECTORS, directing the *abolition* of the College.

Fourth,—The MARQUIS WELLESLEY's Reply to the Court's orders.

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It may be useful to add, that a College for the instruction of the Civil Servants in Bengal

still continues; but that no institution has been provided for the improvement of the public service at Fort St. George and Bombay, where such an establishment is equally required. Indeed, from the circumstance of the Natives in Bengal not speaking the English language, and the consequent necessity which is imposed on Europeans, in that part of India, of acquiring some knowledge of the Oriental languages, a college is not required so much at Calcutta as at the other Settlements, where the Natives understand something of English, and where the Company's Civil Servants have not hitherto made the languages of the East so essential an object of their pursuits, as has always been the case with the Civil Servants in Bengal. The Court of Directors have, it is true, founded an Oriental College at HERTFORD; and the Public will determine, (from the documents now republished,) whether the important objects contemplated by Lord Wellesley are likely to be best attained in INDIA, or in ENGLAND; or by a continuance of *both* the

institutions at Hertford and Calcutta, with an extension of the latter (according to the *original* plan) to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

Whatever may be the result of that determination, the FOUNDER of the COLLEGE of FORT WILLIAM will have the satisfaction of knowing, that, under his administration, the most effectual means "were employed and enforced "for promoting the cultivation of rational "knowledge among the Servants of the Com-"pany, and thereby for securing the RELIGIOUS "and CIVIL RIGHTS of FIFTY MILLIONS of an "ingenious and industrious people;—those "rights which are the inheritance of their "fathers, which they themselves consider as "sacred, and on which, therefore, their pros-"perity, welfare, and happiness essentially "depend."

MINUTE IN COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM,

*Dated the* 18*th August*, 1800,

BY

# THE MARQUIS WELLESLEY,

CONTAINING

*HIS REASONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT*

OF A

## COLLEGE AT CALCUTTA.

### I.

1. The British possessions in India now constitute one of the most extensive and populous empires in the world. The immediate administration of the government of the various provinces and nations composing this empire, is principally confided to the European civil servants of the East India Company. Those provinces, namely, Bengal, Behar, Orissa, and Benares, the Company's Jaghire in the Carnatic, the Northern Circars, the Baramhal, and other districts ceded by the peace of Seringapatam in 1792, which are under the more immediate and direct administration of the European civil servants of the Company, are acknowledged to form the most opulent and flourishing part of India, in which property, life, civil order, and religious liberty, are more secure, and the people enjoy a larger portion of the benefits of good government, than in any other country in this quarter of the globe. The duty and policy of the British Government in India therefore

require, that the system of confiding the immediate exercise of every branch and department of the government to Europeans educated in its own service, and subject to its own direct control, should be diffused as widely as possible, as well with a view to the stability of our own interests, as to the happiness and welfare of our native subjects. This principle formed the basis of the wise and benevolent system introduced by Lord Cornwallis, for the improvement of the internal government of the provinces immediately subject to the presidency of Bengal.

2. In proportion to the extension of this beneficial system, the duties of the European civil servants of the East India Company, are become of greater magnitude and importance; the denominations of writer, factor, and merchant, by which the several classes of the civil service are still distinguished, are now utterly inapplicable to the nature and extent of the duties discharged, and of the occupations pursued by the civil servants of the Company.

3. To dispense justice to millions of people of various languages, manners, usages, and religions; to administer a vast and complicated system of revenue throughout districts, equal in extent to some of the most considerable kingdoms in Europe; to maintain civil order in one of the most populous and litigious regions of the world; these are now the duties of the larger proportion of the civil servants of the Company. The senior merchants composing the five courts of circuit and appeal, under the presidency of Bengal, exercise in each of those courts, a jurisdiction of greater local extent, applicable to a larger population, and occupied in the determination of causes infinitely more intricate and numerous, than

that of any of the regularly constituted courts of justice in any part of Europe. The senior or junior merchants employed in the several magistracies and Zillah courts, the writers or factors filling the stations of registers and assistants to the several courts, and magistrates, exercise in different degrees, functions of a nature either purely judicial, or intimately connected with the administration of the police, and with the maintenance of the peace and good order of their respective districts. Commercial and mercantile knowledge is not only unnecessary throughout every branch of the judicial department, but those civil servants who are invested with the powers of magistracy, or attached to the judicial department in any ministerial capacity, although bearing the denomination of merchants, factors, or writers, are bound by law, and by the solemn obligation of an oath, to abstain from every commercial and mercantile pursuit. The mercantile title which they bear, not only affords no description of their duty, but is entirely at variance with it.

4. The pleadings in the several courts, and all important judicial transactions, are conducted in the native languages. The law which the Company's judges are bound to administer throughout the country, is not the law of England, but that law to which the natives had long been accustomed under their former sovereigns, tempered and mitigated by the voluminous regulations of the Governor-General in Council, as well as by the general spirit of the British Constitution. These observations are sufficient to prove, that no more arduous or complicated duties of magistracy exist in the world, no qualifications more various or comprehensive can be imagined, than those which are required from every Bri-

tish subject, who enters the seat of judgment, within the limits of the Company's empire in India.

5. To the administration of the revenue, many of the preceding observations will apply with equal force; the merchants, factors, and writers employed in this department also, are bound by law to abjure the mercantile denomination appropriated to their respective classes in the Company's service; nor is it possible for a collector of the revenue, or for any civil servant employed under him, to discharge his duty with common justice, either to the state, or to the people, unless he shall be conversant in the language, manners, and usages of the country, and in the general principles of the law as administered in the several courts of justice. In addition to the ordinary judicial and executive functions of the judges, magistrates, and collectors, the judges and magistrates occasionally act in the capacity of governors of their respective districts, employing military, and exercising other extensive powers. The judges, magistrates, and collectors, are also respectively required by law, to propose from time to time to the Governor-General in Council, such amendments of the existing laws, or such new laws as may appear to them to be necessary to the welfare and good government of their respective districts. In this view, the civil servants employed in the departments of judicature and revenue, constitute a species of subordinate legislative Council to the Governor-General in Council, and also a channel of communication, by which the government ought to be enabled at all times to ascertain the wants and wishes of the people. The remarks applied to these two main branches of the civil service, namely, those of judicature and revenue, are at least equally forcible in their application

to those branches which may be described under the general terms of the political and financial departments, comprehending the offices of chief secretary, the various stations in the secretary's office, in the treasury, and in the office of accountant-general, together with all the public officers employed in conducting the current business at the seat of government. To these must be added the diplomatic branch, including the several residencies at the courts of our dependant and tributary princes, or of other native powers of India.

6. It is certainly desirable that all these stations should be filled by the civil servants of the Company; it is equally evident, that qualifications are required in each of these stations, either wholly foreign to commercial habits, or far exceeding the limits of a commercial education.

7. Even that department of the empire which is denominated exclusively commercial, requires knowledge and habits different in a considerable degree from those which form the mercantile character in Europe. Nor can the Company's investment ever be conducted with the greatest possible advantage and honour to themselves, or with adequate justice to their subjects, unless their commercial agents shall possess many of the qualifications of statesmen, enumerated in the preceding observations. The manufacturers and other industrious classes, whose productive labour is the source of the investment, bear so great a proportion to the total population of the Company's dominions, that the general happiness and prosperity of the country must essentially depend on the conduct of the commercial servants employed in providing the investment; their conduct cannot be answerable to such a charge, unless they be

conversant in the native languages, and in the customs and manners of the people, as well as in the laws by which the country is governed. The peace, order, and welfare of whole provinces, may be materially affected by the malversations, or even by the ignorance and errors of a commercial resident, whose management touches the dearest and most valuable interests, and enters into the domestic concerns of numerous bodies of people, active and acute from habitual industry, and jealous of any act of power injurious to their properties, or contrary to their prejudices and customs.

8. The civil servants of the English East India Company, therefore, can no longer be considered as the agents of a COMMERCIAL CONCERN; they are in fact the ministers and officers of a POWERFUL SOVEREIGN; they must now be viewed in that capacity with a reference, not to their nominal, but to their real occupations. They are required to discharge the functions of magistrates, judges, ambassadors, and governors of provinces, in all the complicated and extensive relations of those sacred trusts and exalted stations, and under peculiar circumstances which greatly enhance the solemnity of every public obligation, and aggravate the difficulty of every public charge. Their duties are those of statesmen in every other part of the world, with no other characteristic differences than the obstacles opposed by an unfavourable climate, a foreign language, the peculiar usages and laws of India, and the manners of its inhabitants. Their studies, the discipline of their education, their habits of life, their manners and morals, should therefore be so ordered and regulated as to establish a just conformity between their personal consideration, and the dignity and importance of their public stations, and a sufficient cor-

respondence between their qualifications and their duties. Their education should be founded in a general knowledge of those branches of literature and science, which form the basis of the education of persons destined to similar occupations in Europe. To this foundation should be added an intimate acquaintance with the history, languages, customs, and manners of the people of India, with the Mahommedan and Hindu codes of law and religion, and with the political and commercial interests and relations of Great Britain in Asia. They should be regularly instructed in the principles and system which constitute the foundation of that wise code of regulations and laws enacted by the Governor-general in Council, for the purpose of securing to the people of this empire, the benefit of the ancient and established laws of the country, administered in the spirit of the British constitution. They should be well informed of the true and sound principles of the British constitution, and sufficiently grounded in the general principles of ethics, civil jurisprudence, the laws of nations, and general history, in order that they may be enabled to discriminate the characteristic differences of the several codes of law administered within the British empire in India, and practically to combine the spirit of each in the dispensation of justice, and in the maintenance of order and good government. Finally, their early habits should be formed, to establish in their minds such solid foundations of industry, prudence, integrity, and religion, as should effectually guard them against those temptations and corruptions with which the nature of the climate and the peculiar depravity of the people of India, will surround and assail them in every station, especially upon their first arrival in India. The early discipline of the service should

be calculated to counteract the defects of the climate and the vices of the people, and to form a natural barrier against habitual indolence, dissipation, and licentious indulgence; the spirit of emulation in honourable and useful pursuits should be kindled and kept alive by the continual prospect of distinction and reward, of profit and honour; nor should any precaution be relaxed in India which is deemed necessary in England, to furnish a sufficient supply of men, qualified to fill the high offices of the state, with credit to themselves, and with advantage to the public. Without such a constant succession of men in the several branches and departments of this government, the wisdom and benevolence of the law must prove vain and insufficient. Whatever course and system of discipline and study may be deemed requisite in England to secure an abundant and pure source for the efficient supply of the public service, the peculiar nature of our establishments in the East (so far from admitting any relaxation of those wise and salutary rules and restraints) demands, that they should be enforced with a degree of additional vigilance and care, proportioned to the aggravated difficulties of the civil service, and to the numerous hazards surrounding the entrance of public life in India.

II.

9. It is unnecessary to enter into any examination of facts to prove, that no system of education, study, or discipline, now exists either in Europe or in India, founded on the principles, or directed to the objects, described in the preceding pages; but it may be useful in this place to review the course through which the junior civil servants of the East India Company now enter upon the important duties of their respective stations, to con-

sider to what degree they now possess, or can attain any means of qualifying themselves sufficiently for those stations, and to examine whether the great body of the civil servants of the East India Company at any of the Presidencies, can now be deemed competent to discharge their arduous and comprehensive trusts, in a manner correspondent to the interests and honour of the British name in India, or to the prosperity and happiness of our native subjects.

10. The age at which the writers usually arrive in India, is from sixteen to eighteen. Their parents or friends in England, from a variety of considerations, are naturally desirous, not only to accelerate the appointment at home, but to dispatch the young man to India at the earliest possible period. Some of these young men have been educated with an express view to the civil service in India, on principles utterly erroneous and inapplicable to its actual condition; conformably to this error, they have received a limited education, confined principally to commercial knowledge, and in no degree extended to those liberal studies which constitute the basis of education at public schools in England. Even this limited course of study is interrupted at the early period of fifteen or seventeen years.

11. It would be superfluous to enter into any argument to demonstrate the absolute insufficiency of this class of young men to execute the duties of any station whatever in the civil service of the Company, beyond the menial, laborious, unwholesome, and unprofitable duty of a mere copying clerk. Those who have received the benefits of a better education, have the misfortune to find the course of their studies prematurely interrupted at the critical

period when its utility is first felt, and before they have been enabled to secure the fruits of early application.

12. Both descriptions of young men, those whose education has been originally erroneous and defective; and those, the early promise of whose studies has been unseasonably broken, when arrived in India, are equally precluded from the means, either of commencing a new and judicious course of study, adapted to their new situation, or of prosecuting that course which has been unseasonably interrupted. Not only no encouragement is offered by the present constitution and practice of the civil service to any such pursuits, but difficulties and obstacles are presented by both, which render it nearly impossible for any young man, whatever may be his disposition, to pursue any systematic plan of study, either with a view to remedy the defects, or to improve the advantages of his former education.

13. On the arrival of the writers in India, they are either stationed in the interior of the country, or employed in some office at the presidency.

14. If stationed in the interior of the country, they are placed in situations which require a knowledge of the language and customs of the natives; or of the regulations and laws; or of the general principles of jurisprudence; or of the details of the established systems of revenue; or of the nature of the Company's investment, or of many of these branches of information combined. In all these branches of knowledge, the young writers are totally uninformed, and they are consequently unequal to their prescribed duties. In some cases, their superior in office, experiencing no benefit from their services, leaves them unemployed: in this state, many devote their time to those luxuries and enjoyments which

their situation enables them to command, without making any effort to qualify themselves for the important stations to which they are destined. They remain sunk in indolence, until, from their station in the service, they succeed to offices of high public trust.

15. Positive incapacity is the necessary result of these pernicious habits of inaction, the principles of public integrity are endangered, and the successful administration of the whole government exposed to hazard. This has been the unhappy course of many who have conceived an early disgust, in provincial stations, against business to which they have found themselves unequal, and who have been abandoned to the effects of despondency and sloth.

16. Even the young men whose dispositions are the most promising, if stationed in the interior of the country, at an early period after their arrival in India, labour under great disadvantages. They also find themselves unequal to such duties, as require an acquaintance with the languages, or with the branches of knowledge already described. If entirely employed in the subordinate details of office, they are absolutely precluded from reviving any former acquirements, or from establishing those foundations of useful knowledge indispensably necessary to enable them hereafter to execute the duties of important stations with ability and credit. Harassed with the ungrateful task of transcribing papers and accounts, or with other equally fatiguing and fruitless labours of a copying clerk or index maker, their pursuit of useful knowledge cannot be systematic; if attempted in any degree, their studies are desultory and irregular, and their attention to any definite pursuit is still more distracted by the uncertainty of the nature of those employments to

which they may hereafter be nominated.—No course of study having been pointed out by public institution, no selection prescribed by authority of the branches of knowledge appropriated to each department and class of the service, diligence is lost for want of a guide, and the most industrious are discouraged by the apprehension that their studies may prove fruitless, and may frustrate, instead of promoting, their advancement in the public service.

17. When their rank in the service has entitled them to succeed to offices of importance, the current duties of these offices necessarily engross their whole attention. It is then too late to revert to any systematic plan of study with a view to acquire those qualifications of which, in the ordinary discharge of their official functions, they feel the hourly want; if at this late season they should make an effort to acquire knowledge, it must be sought by the interruption of their current business, to the detriment of the public interests, and to the inconvenience or injury of the individuals subject to their authority.

18. With respect to the young men attached to the offices at the presidency, their duty consists chiefly in transcribing papers. This duty, if pursued with the utmost diligence and assiduity, affords little knowledge of public affairs, is often prejudicial to health, and would be better performed by any native or Portuguese writer. They obtain no distinct knowledge of the public records, because they pursue no regular course of reading, examining, or comparing the documents which compose those public records; they have indeed scarcely time to understand and digest those papers which they are employed to transcribe; their acquaintance even with the current affairs of the government must be limited and

partial, and must rather tend to confuse than to instruct their minds. At the expiration of the period during which they usually remain in these situations at the presidency, their knowledge of public business is necessarily superficial and incorrect; having had little intercourse with the natives, these young men are in general extremely deficient in the knowledge of the language of the country. In the mean time, their close and laborious application to the hourly business of transcribing papers has been an insuperable objection to their advancement in any other branch of knowledge, and at the close of two or three years they have lost the fruits of their European studies, without having gained any useful knowledge of Asiatic literature or business. Those whose dispositions lead them to idleness and dissipation, find greater temptations to indulgence and extravagance at the presidency, than in the provinces. Many instances occur in which they fall into irretrievable courses of gaming, and totally destroy their health and fortunes. Some succeed, in the ordinary progress of the service, to employments, in which their incapacity or misconduct becomes conspicuous to the natives, disgraceful to themselves, and injurious to the state.

19. All these descriptions of young men, upon their first arrival in India, are now exposed to a disadvantage the most perilous that can be encountered at an early period of life. Once landed in India, their studies, manners, morals, expences, or conduct, are no longer subject to any degree of regulation or direction; no system is established for their guidance, improvement, or restraint; no authority has been constituted with either the duty or power of enforcing any such system; and they are abandoned at the age of sixteen or eighteen,

with affluent incomes, to pursue their own inclinations, without the superintendance or controul of parent, guardian, or master ; often without a friend to advise or admonish, or even to instruct them in the ordinary details and modes of an Indian life.

20. The practice of consigning the young writers to the care of friends resident in India, affords no adequate remedy to this evil. Those friends are often incompetent to the arduous and delicate task imposed upon them ; and it frequently happens that they may be so far removed from the spot at which the young man may be stationed by the government, that years may elapse before he may have been able even to see the persons appointed by his European friends to superintend his introduction into India.

21. In earlier periods of our establishment, when the annual incomes of the civil servants were of a more fluctuating nature, and derived from sources more vague and indefinite, the tables of the senior servants were usually open to those more recently arrived from Europe ; and the young writers, upon their first landing in India, were frequently admitted and domiciliated in the families established at the presidency, or in the provinces.

22. The objections to this loose and irregular system were numerous and obvious : without entering upon that topic, it is sufficient to observe, that the definite and regular sources of profit established in the civil service by Lord Cornwallis, have occasioned a material alteration in the economy of every private family among the civil servants.

23. Incomes being limited and ascertained, and no other source of emolument now existing beyond the annual savings from the regulated salaries, the tables of

the civil servants can no longer be open to receive the numerous body of writers annually arriving from Europe; still less can these young men be generally admitted to reside habitually in families, of which the annual expences are now necessarily restrained with'n certain and regular boundaries.

24. Many of the young men, on their first arrival, are therefore compelled to support the expense of a table; the result of this necessarily is obvious, and forms one leading cause of expense and dissipation.

25. Under all these early disadvantages, without rule or system to direct their studies, without any prescribed object of useful pursuit connected with future reward, emolument, or distinction; without any guide to regulate or authority to control their conduct, or to form, improve, or preserve their morals, it is highly creditable to the individual characters of the civil servants of the East India Company, that so many instances have occurred, in various branches and departments of the civil service at all the presidencies, of persons who have discharged their public duties with considerable respect and honor.

26. It has been justly observed, that all the merits of the civil servants are to be ascribed to their own character, talents, and exertions, while their defects must be imputed to the constitution and practice of the service, which have not been accommodated to the progressive changes of our situation in India, and have not kept pace with the growth of this empire, or with the increasing extent and importance of the functions and duties of the civil servants.

27. The study and acquisition of the languages have however been extended in Bengal; and the general knowledge and qualifications of the civil servants have been

improved: the proportion of the civil servants in Bengal, who have made a considerable progress towards the attainment of the qualifications requisite in their several stations, appears great, and even astonishing when viewed with regard to the early disadvantages, embarrassments, and defects of the civil service. But this proportion will appear very different when compared with the exigencies of the state, with the magnitude of these provinces, and with the total number of the civil servants, which must supply the succession to the great offices of the government. It must be admitted that the great body of the civil servants in Bengal, is not at present sufficiently qualified to discharge the duties of the several arduous stations in the administration of this empire; and that it is peculiarly deficient in the judicial, fiscal, financial, and political branches of the government.

28. The state of the civil services of Madras and Bombay is still more defective than that of Bengal. Various causes have concurred to aggravate in an extreme degree, at both those presidencies, all the defects existing in the civil service of Bengal, while many circumstances peculiar to those presidencies have favoured the growth of evils at present unknown in this. The condition of the writers on their first arrival at either of the subordinate presidencies is still more destitute, and more exposed to hazard than at Calcutta.

29. The study and acquisition of the languages, and of other necessary attainments, has not been extended in the civil service at Madras or Bombay to any considerable degree. To this remark eminent and meritorious individual exceptions exist in the civil service, at both the subordinate presidencies; but those exceptions are not sufficiently numerous to constitute a general rule. But

whatever may be the actual condition of the civil service in its superior classes at any of the presidencies, if the arduous duties of that service have been justly defined in preceeding pages, if the qualifications necessary for their discharge have been truly described, if the neglected and exposed condition of the early stages of the service has not been exaggerated, it must be admitted that those stages of the service require additional safeguards, and a more effectual protection. The extraordinary exertions of individual diligence, the partial success of singular talents, or of peculiar prudence and virtue, constitute no rational foundation of a public institution, which should rest on general and certain principles. If the actual state of the higher classes of the civil service were such as to justify a confidence in the general competency of the civil servants to meet the exigencies of their duties, the necessity of correcting the evil stated in the preceding pages would still remain, unless the facts alleged could be disproved. It would still be a duty incumbent on the government to remove any obstacles tending to embarrass or retard the progress of their servants in attaining the qualifications necessary for their respective stations. The government is not released from this duty by the extraordinary or even general exertions of their servants, to surmount the early difficulties of the first stages of the service. If the good government of this empire be the primary duty of its sovereign, it must ever be a leading branch of that duty to facilitate to the public officers and ministers the means of qualifying themselves for their respective functions: the efficiency of the service cannot be wisely or conscientiously left to depend on the success of individual or accidental merit, struggling against the defects of established in-

stitutions, operating in a regular and uninterrupted course upon the various characters, talents, and acquirements of individuals. The nature of our establishments should furnish fixed and systematic encouragement to animate, to facilitate, to reward the progress of industry and virtue; and fixed and systematic discipline to repress and correct the excesses of contrary dispositions.

30. From these remarks may be deduced the indispensable necessity of providing some speedy and effectual remedy for the improvement of the education of the young men, destined to the civil service in India. The nature of that remedy will afford matter of serious discussion.

31. It may, however, be useful, previous to that discussion, to advert to a general topic of argument, which may possibly be adduced to disprove the necessity of any new institution for the improvement of the civil service of the East India Company. It may be contended, that this service, through a long period of years, and in the course of various changes and chances, has always furnished men equal to the exigency of the occasion; that servants of the Company have never been wanting to conduct, to a happy issue, the numerous revolutions which have taken place in the affairs of the Company in India; and that these eminent personages have ultimately raised the British empire in India, on the most solid foundations of glory, wealth, and power. Why, therefore, should we apprehend, that the source hitherto so fruitful, and furnishing so abundant a stream of virtue and talents, will fail in the present age, and prove insufficient to the actual demands of our interests in this quarter of the globe? The answer to this topic of argument is obvious: extraordinary combinations of human affairs, wars, revolutions,

and all those unusual events, which form the marked features and prominent characters of the history of mankind, naturally bring to light talents and exertions adapted to such emergencies. That the civil or military service of the East India Company has supplied persons calculated to meet all the wonderful revolutions of affairs in India, is a circumstance not to be attributed to the original or peculiar constitution of either service, at any period of time; that constitution has undergone repeated alterations, at the suggestion, and under the direction of the great characters which it has produced; and it has still been found answerable to every new crisis of an extraordinary nature. But it must never be forgotten, that the successive efforts of those eminent personages, and the final result of various revolutions and wars, have imposed upon the East India Company, the ARDUOUS and SACRED TRUST of GOVERNING an EXTENSIVE and POPULOUS EMPIRE. It is true, that this empire must be maintained in some of its relations by the same spirit of enterprise and boldness, which acquired it. But duty, policy, and honour require that it should not be administered as a temporary and precarious acquisition; as an empire conquered by prosperous adventure, and extended by fortunate accident, of which the tenure is as uncertain as the original conquest, and successive extension were extraordinary; it must be considered as a SACRED TRUST and a PERMANENT SUCCESSION. In this view, its internal government demands a constant and steady, and regular supply of qualifications, in no degree similar to those which distinguished the early periods of our establishment in India, and laid the foundations of our empire. The stability of that empire, whose magnitude is the accumulated result of former enterprise, activity, and reso-

lution must be secured by the durable principles of internal order; by a pure, upright, and uniform administration of justice; by a prudent and temperate system of revenue; by the encouragement and protection of industry, agriculture, manufacture, and commerce; by a careful and judicious management of every branch of financial resource; and by the maintenance of a just, firm, and moderate policy towards the native powers of India. To maintain and support such a system in all its parts, we shall require a succession of able magistrates, wise and honest judges, and skilful statesmen, properly qualified to conduct the ordinary movements of the great machine of government.

The military establishments of this empire form no part of the subject of this present enquiry. It may be sufficient to observe, in this place, that their extent, and the spirit in which they require to be governed, must correspond with the magnitude of the empire, and with the general character of our civil policy. In the civil service we must now seek, not the instruments by which kingdoms are overthrown, revolutions governed, or wars conducted, but an inexhaustible supply of useful knowledge, cultivated talents, and well ordered and disciplined morals; these are the necessary instruments of a wise and well-regulated government; these are the genuine and unfailing means of cultivating and improving the arts of peace, of diffusing affluence and happiness, willing obedience and grateful attachment over every region and district of this vast empire, and of dispensing to every class and description of our subjects, the permanent benefits of secure property, protected life, undisturbed order, and inviolate religion. It is not the nature of these

inestimable blessings to spring from a turbid source, or to flow in a contracted and irregular channel.

33. The early education of the civil servants of the East India Company is the source from which will ultimately be derived the happiness or misery of our native subjects; and the stability of our government will bear a due proportion to its wisdom, liberality and justice.

III.

34. From the preceding discussion, it appears, that the actual state of the Company's civil service in India is far removed from perfection or efficiency, and that the cause of this defect is to be found principally, if not exclusively, in the defective education of the junior civil servants, and in the insufficient discipline of the early stages of the service. The facts which have been reviewed in the course of this discussion, furnish the main principles on which an improved system of education and discipline may be founded, with a view to secure the important ends of such an institution.

35. The defects of the present condition of the civil service may be comprised under the following heads:

*First*, An erroneous system of education in Europe, confined to commercial and mercantile studies.

*Secondly*, The premature interruption of a course of study judiciously commenced in Europe.

*Thirdly*, The exposed and destitute condition of young men on their first arrival in India, and the want of a systematic guidance and established authority to regulate and controul their moral and religious conduct in the early stages of the service.

*Fourthly*, The want of a similar system and authority to prescribe and enforce a regular course of study, under which the young men, upon their arrival in India, might

be enabled to correct the errors, or to pursue and confirm the advantages of their European education, and to attain a knowledge of the languages, laws, usages and customs of India, together with such other branches of knowledge, as are requisite to qualify them for their several stations.

*Fifthly*, The want of such regulations as shall establish a necessary and inviolable connection between promotion in the civil service, and the possession of those qualifications requisite for the due discharge of the several civil stations.

36. It is obvious, that an education exclusively European or Indian, would not afford an adequate remedy for such of these defects as relate to the morals and studies of the East India Company's servants, and would not qualify them for the discharge of duties of a mixed and complicated nature, involving the combined principles of Asiatic and European policy and government. Their education must therefore be of a mixed nature; its foundation must be judiciously laid in England, and the superstructure systematically completed in India.

37. An important question may arise, with respect to the proportion of time to be employed in that part of the education of the junior civil servants, which should be appropriated to England, and accomplished previously to their departure for India. It may be contended, that many of the enumerated evils may be precluded by not allowing the writers to proceed to India until they shall have attained a more advanced age than that at which they now usually embark, and by requiring them to undergo examinations in England, for the purpose of ascertaining their proficiency in the branches of knowledge necessary to the discharge of their duties in India.

38. To this arrangement various objections of a private, but most important nature will arise in the mind of every parent, who may have destined his children for India. To attain any considerable progress in the course of education and study described in this paper, must necessarily require the detention of the student in Europe to the age of twenty or twenty-two years; many parents could not defray the expence of such an education in England, even if the other means of prosecuting it now existed, or could hereafter be provided at any school or college at home.

39. Other objections of a private nature might be stated against this plan; but those which are founded on public considerations appear to be absolutely insurmountable. It is a fundamental principle of policy in the British establishments in the East Indies, that the views of the servants of the Company should terminate in the prospect of returning to England, there to enjoy the emoluments arising from a due course of active and honourable service in india.

40. Were the civil servants, instead of leaving England at the age of sixteen or seventeen, to be detained until the age of twenty or twenty-two, a great proportion of them must abandon all hope of returning with a moderate competence to their native country.

41. Remaining in England to this advanced age, many would form habits and connexions at home not to be relinquished at that period of life without great reluctance, and few would accommodate themselves, with readiness and facility, to the habits, regulations, and discipline of the service in India.

42. While these causes would render the civil servants untractable instruments in the hands of the government

of India, the regular progress through the service would also be retarded: twenty-five years may be taken as the period within which a civil servant may regularly acquire, with proper habits of economy, an independent fortune in India. Upon this calculation, before the most successful could hope to be in a situation to return to England, they would have attained an age, when many of the powerful affections and inducements, which now attract the servants of the company to return to their native country, would be greatly weakened, if not entirely extinguished.

43. At that age, many from necessity, and many probably from choice, would establish themselves permanently in India. It is unnecessary to detail the evil consequences which would result to the British interests in India, were such an habit to become general in the civil service.

44. Detention in England to the age of twenty or twenty-two years, would certainly afford the writers an opportunity of advancing their knowledge in the necessary branches of European study: but within that period of time, even in those branches, it could scarcely be completed; especially in the important sciences of general ethics and jurisprudence, (for how few understandings are equal to such a course of study previously to the age of twenty!) and it would be entirely defective in the essential point of connecting the principles of those sciences with the laws of India, and with the manners and usages of its inhabitants. No establishment formed in England would give a correct* practical knowledge of the lan-

* Sir William Jones was not intelligible to the natives of India (when he arrived at Calcutta,) in any of the oriental languages.

guages, laws, and customs of India, of the peculiar habits and genius of the people, of their mode of transacting business, and of the characteristic features of their vices or virtues. These most essential acquirements would therefore remain to be obtained after the arrival of the student in India, at an age when the study of languages is attended with additional difficulties, when any prescribed course of study, when any systematic discipline, or regular restraint, becomes irksome, if not intolerable. As the East India Company's servants would arrive in India at a period of life too far advanced to admit of subjection to any system of public discipline or controul, they must necessarily be left to the dictates of their own discretion, with regard to whatever part of their knowledge had been left incomplete in Europe.

45. The wants and expenses of individuals arriving in India at the age of twenty or twenty-two years, would greatly exceed the scale of the public allowances to the junior servants. At this age no restraint could be applied in India to their moral conduct, for the purpose of protecting them against the peculiar depravities incident to the climate, and to the character of the natives.

46. From the early age at which the writers are now usually sent to India, opportunity is afforded to the government, on the spot, of obtaining a knowledge of the characters of individuals, before they become eligible to stations of trust and importance. Of this advantage the government would be in a great degree deprived, if the East India Company's servants were all detained in England until the age of twenty or twenty-two. This inconvenience would prove nearly an insurmountable impediment to the important and necessary rule of selecting for

public office, those best qualified to discharge its duties with propriety and effect.

47. The junior civil servants must therefore continue to embark for India at the age of fifteen or sixteen, that they may be tractable instruments in the hands of the government of the country, that their morals and habits may be formed with proper safeguards against the peculiar nature of the views and characteristic dangers of Indian society; that they may be enabled to pass through the service before the vigour of life has ceased, and to return with a competent fortune to Europe, while the affections and attachments which bind them to their native country continue to operate with full force; and lastly, that they may possess regular, reasonable, and certain means of attaining the peculiar qualifications necessary for their stations.

48. Under all these circumstances the most deliberate and assiduous examination of all the important questions considered in this paper, determined the Governor-General to found a collegiate institution at Fort William by the annexed regulations.*

49. This regulation comprises all the fundamental principles of the institution. The detailed statutes for the internal discipline and good government of the college will be framed gradually as circumstances may require.

50. A common table and apartments are to be provided in the college, for all the civil servants who may be attached to the establishment.

51. The benefits of the establishment are extended to the junior civil servants of Fort St. George and Bombay, who will be directed to proceed to Fort William, as soon

* See the Regulations, Asiatic Register, Vol. II.

as the accommodations requisite for their reception shall have been provided.

52. This arrangement appeared in every respect preferable to the establishment of colleges, at both or either of those presidencies. Independent of the considerations of expense and other objections, and impediments to the foundation of such institutions at Fort St. George and Bombay, it is of essential importance that every branch of the civil service of the Company should be uniform, and should be conducted under the immediate superintendance of that authority, which is primarily responsible for the government of the whole of the British possessions in India, and which must consequently be most competent to judge of the nature and principles of the education which may be most expedient for the public interests. It may be expected that the operation of this part of the new institution will ultimately extinguish all local jealousies and prejudices among the several presidencies; the political, moral, and religious principles of all the British establishments in India, will then be derived directly from one common source; the civil service of Bengal is unquestionably farther advanced in every useful acquisition, and in every respect more regular and correct, than that of either of the subordinate presidencies; no more speedy or efficacious mode can be devised, of diffusing, throughout India, the laudable spirit of the service of Bengal, and of extending the benefit of improvements, which, under the new institution, may be expected to make a rapid progress at the seat of government, than by rendering Fort William the centre of the education and discipline of the junior civil servants in India.

53. Provision is made for admitting to the benefits of the institution, civil servants of a longer standing than three years, (on their making application for that purpose,) under such regulations as may be deemed advisable. The institution may prove highly beneficial to many servants of this description; as many of them will be received on the establishment, as its funds and other considerations may admit.

54. Provision is also made for extending the benefits of the institution, to as many of the junior military servants as it may be found practicable to admit from all the presidencies; essential benefits will result to the British armies in India, from the annual introduction of a number of young men well versed in the languages, with which every officer, but particularly those belonging to the native corps, ought to be acquainted: it is also of most essential importance to the army in India, that it should be composed of officers attached by regular instruction, and disciplined habits, to the principles of morality, good order, and subordination.

55. Further regulations are in the contemplation of the Governor-general, for the education of the cadets destined for the army in India, which will be connected intimately with the present foundation.

56. It cannot be denied that during the convulsions with which the doctrines of the French revolution have agitated the continent of Europe, erroneous principles of the same dangerous tendency had reached the minds of some individuals in the civil and military service of the Company in India; and the state, as well of political, as religious opinions, had been in some degree unsettled: the progress of this mischief would at all times be aided by the defective and irregular education of the writers and

cadets ; an institution tending to fix and establish sound and correct principles of religion and government in their minds at an early period of life, is the best security that can be provided for the stability of the British power in India. The letter of the Court of Directors, under date the 25th of May 1798, has been constantly present to the Governor-General's mind; it is satisfactory to know, after the fullest consideration, that many apprehensions stated in that letter, appear to have been conceived with more force than is required by the actual state of any of the settlements in India.

57. But among other important advantages of the new institution, it will provide the most effectual and permanent remedy against the evils (as far as they existed) which it was the object of the orders of the honourable court, of the 25th of May 1798, to correct.

58. The situation of the junior servants on their early arrival in India, has been fully described in that paper; under the new institution they will be immediately received by the provost, a clergyman of the Church of England; they will be provided with apartments in the college, and with a common table; consequently they will be removed from the danger of profusion, extravagance, and excess. Every part of their private conduct, their expenses, their connections, their manners and morals, will be subject to the notice of the provost, and principal officers of the college, and (through the collegiate authorities) to the government itself.

59. While attached to the institution, the junior servants will have the most ample means afforded them of completing the European branch of their education, or of correcting its defects; of acquiring whatever local knowledge may be necessary for that department of the

service, in which (after mature reflection on their own inclinations and talents) they may determine to engage; of forming their manners, and of fixing their principles on the solid foundations of virtue and religion.

60. The acquirements, abilities, and moral character of every civil servant may be ascertained before he can be eligible to a public station; and every selection of persons, for high and important offices, may be made under a moral certainty that the public expectation cannot be disappointed.

61. The 24th clause of the regulation will afford the foundation of a law, which may at all times secure the civil service against the effects of the possible partiality or ignorance of any government.

62. It is intended that the allowance of every civil servant, of less than three years standing, being a student in the college, should be brought to one standard of 300 rupees per month, without any allowance for a moonshee.

63. As a table and apartments will be provided for the students, this allowance will place them in a better situation than any writer of the same standing now enjoys.—With these advantages, under the control of the official authorities of the college, and with the benefit of their advice and admonition, aided by statutes for the prevention of extravagance and debt, it may be hoped, that many young men will adopt early habits of economy, and will lay the foundations of honest independence, at a much earlier period than is now practicable. This advantage will be considerable in every view, in none more than as it will tend to contract the period of each servant's residence in India, to give a nearer prospect of return to England, and to keep that desirable object more constantly in view.

64. The discipline of the college will be as moderate as can be consistent with the ends of the institution. It will impose no harsh or humiliating restraint, and will be formed on principles combining the discipline of the Universities in England with that of the Royal Military Academies in France, and of other European monarchies.

65. It may be expected that the great majority of young men, on their arrival in India, will eagerly embrace the opportunities afforded to them by this institution, of laying the foundations of private character, of public reputation, and of early independence. It cannot be supposed, that many will be so insensible to their own honour and interests, and so destitute of every liberal feeling and sentiment, as not to prefer the proposed course of studies in the college, to the menial labour now imposed upon them, of transcribing papers in an office, where, in the nature of their duty, they are levelled with the native and Portuguese clerks, although infinitely inferior in its execution.

66. Those young men, who may not at the first view discover all the advantages to be derived from the institution, will soon improve by the example and communication of others; if any individual should continue insensible to the calls of public duty, and of private reputation, (and it is of importance that persons of this description should be known, before an opportunity has been afforded to them of injuring the public interests by their vices and defects,) the public good will demand, that they should be punished by neglect and exclusion from employment. Considering the liberal manner in which the servants of the Company are rewarded for their services, the public may justly insist on submission

to whatever regulation may be prescribed by this institution.

67. The excitements to exertion being as powerful, as the consequences of contrary habits will be ruinous, instances of gross neglect or contumacy, will rarely occur. In this respect the institution possesses peculiar advantages, and it will become a powerful instrument in the hands of the government in India, who will be enabled thereby to bring the general character of the servants of the Company to such a standard of perfection as the public interests require. To every other inducement, which any collegiate institution in the world can supply for the encouragement of diligence, will be added the immediate view of official promotion, increase of fortune, and distinction in the public service.

68. If it be asked, whether it is proper that the whole time of the junior servants, for the first three years of their residence in India, should be devoted to study in the college, and that the Company should lose the benefit of their services during that period, while the junior servants receive a salary?

69. It may be inquired on the other hand, what is now the occupation of the civil servants for the three first years after their arrival in India? What benefit the Company now derive from the services of the junior servants during that period? And what in general are now the characters and qualifications of those servants at the expiration of that period? In all these questions, sufficient answers have been given in the preceding pages. Further details respecting the nature of the institution, will be forwarded officially to the Court of Directors at an early period.

70. The reasons which induced the Governor-General to found the College, without any previous reference to England, were these:—His conviction of the great immediate benefit to be derived from the early commencement even of the partial operation of the plan. His experience of the great advantages which had been already derived by many of the young men by their attendance on Mr. Gilchrist, in consequence of the first experiment made on a contracted scale, with a view to a more extended institution. His anxiety to impart to the very promising young men, arrived from Europe, within these last three years, a share of the advantages described in this paper; and his solicitude to superintend the foundation of the institution, and to accelerate and witness its first effects.

71. This institution will be best appreciated by every affectionate parent in the hour of separation from his child, destined to the public service in India. Let any parent (especially if he has himself passed through the Company's service in India) declare, whether the prospect of this institution has aggravated or mitigated the solicitude of that painful hour; whether it has raised additional doubts and fears, or inspired a more lively hope of the honourable and prosperous service, of the early and fortunate return of his child.

72. With regard to the funds for defraying the expense of the institution, the Governor-General does not intend, without the sanction of the honourable Court of Directors, to subject the Company to any expense on account of the institution, beyond that which has already received their sanction independently of the institution.

73. The honourable court have authorised this government to purchase the writers buildings if they can be

obtained on advantageous terms; these buildings cannot be obtained on such terms; nor can they be advantageously converted to the final purposes of the institution —a sum equal to the just value of the buildings, or to the rent now paid for them, will be applied towards the purchase of a proper spot of ground, and to the buildings requisite for the College.

74. The ground proposed to be employed, is situated in the Garden Reach, where three or four of the present gardens will be laid together, a new road formed, and a large space of ground cleared and drained. This arrangement will improve the general health of the neighbourhood of Calcutta, as well as afford ample room for every accommodation required for the use of the College, or for the health of the students.

75. The expenses of the institution will be provided for by a small contribution from all the civil servants in India, to be deducted from their salaries. This resource will probably be sufficient for all present purposes, with the addition of the fund now applied to the moonshee's allowance, and of the profits to be derived from a new arrangement of the government printing press.

76. The Governor-General has not deemed it proper, in the first instance, to subject the Company to any additional expense on account of the institution. The honourable the Court of Directors will, however, reflect, that this institution is calculated to EXTEND the BLESSINGS or GOOD GOVERNMENT to the MANY MILLIONS of PEOPLE whom PROVIDENCE has SUBJECTED to OUR DOMINIONS; to perpetuate the immense advantages now derived by the Company from their possessions in India, and to establish the British empire in India, on the solid foundations of ability, integrity, virtue, and religion. The

approved liberality of the honourable Court, will, therefore, certainly be manifested towards this institution, to an extent commensurate to its importance. It would produce a most salutary impression on India, if the Court, immediately on receiving this regulation, were to order the Governor-General in Council to endow the College with an annual rent-charge on the revenues of Bengal, and to issue a similar order to the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, with respect to the revenue of Mysore, leaving the amount of the endowment upon each fund to the Governor-General in Council.

77. All those who feel any concern in the support of the British interests in India, and especially those whose fortunes have been acquired in the service of the Company, or whose connections may now or hereafter look to this service for advancement, will undoubtedly contribute to the support of the institution; under the auspices of the Court it is hoped, that a large sum might be raised by subscription in Europe. The Governor-General considered the College at Fort William to be the most becoming public monument which the East India Company could raise to commemorate the conquest of Mysore; he has accordingly dated the law for the foundation of the College on the 4th May, 1800, the first anniversary of the reduction of Seringapatam.

78. The early attention of the Governor-General will be directed to the Mahommedan College founded at Calcutta, and to the Hindû College established at Benares. In the disorder which preceded the fall of the Mogul empire and the British conquests in India, all the public institutions calculated to promote education and good morals, were neglected, and at length entirely discontinued. The institutions at Calcutta and Benares, may

be made the means of aiding the study of the laws and languages in the College at Fort William, as well as of correcting the defective moral principles too generally prevalent among the natives of India.

79. An establishment of moonshees and native teachers of the languages, under the control of the collegiate officers at Fort William, will be attached to the new college, and the young men will be supplied from this establishment, instead of being left, (as at present) to exercise their own discretion, in hiring such moonshees as they can find at Calcutta, or in the provinces.

80. The arrangement respecting the native colleges, while they contribute to the happiness of our native subjects, will qualify them to form a more just estimate of the mild and benevolent spirit of the British government.

81. In selecting the Garden Reach for the site of the buildings for the new college, two objects were in the contemplation of the Governor-General:

*First*, That the ordinary residence of the students should be so near that of the Governor-General, as that he may have the constant means of superintending the whole system and discipline of the institution. The distance of fifteen or sixteen miles, in this climate, would often embarrass the communication.

*Secondly*, That the college should be removed some distance from the town of Calcutta. The principle of this object is sufficiently intelligible without further explanation: it is, however, desirable that the college should not be so remote from Calcutta as to preclude the young men from all intercourse with the society of that city: advantages may be derived from a regulated intercourse with the higher classes of that society; the Gar-

den Reach combines these advantages with many others, of space and accommodation. The situation of the writers buildings is objectionable, on account of their being placed in the centre of the town; nor could it have been practicable in that situation (even if the writers buildings could have been purchased upon reasonable terms) to have obtained an area of ground sufficiently spacious for the new building.

82. As it will require a considerable time before the new building in Garden Reach can be completed, it is intended in the mean while to continue to occupy the writers buildings, and to hire such additional buildings in the neighbourhood as may be required for the temporary accommodation of the students and officers of the college, for the library, the dining hall, the lecture rooms, and other purposes; it will be necessary to make some considerable purchases of books for the foundation of the library; the Governor-general will effect whatever purchases can be made with economy and advantage in India; lists of books will be transmitted to England by an early opportunity, with a view to such purchases as it may be necessary to make in Europe: and the Governor-general entertains no doubt that the Court of Directors will contribute liberally towards such purchases. That part of the library of the late Tippoo Sultaun, which was presented by the army to the Court of Directors, is lately arrived in Bengal; the Governor-general strongly recommends, that the oriental manuscripts composing this collection, should be deposited in the library of the college at Fort William, and it is his intention to retain the manuscripts accordingly, until he shall receive the orders of the court upon the subject: he will transmit lists of the collection by the first opportunity.

83. It is obvious, that these manuscripts may be rendered highly useful to the purposes of the new institution, and that much more public advantage can be derived from them in the library of the college at Fort William, than can possibly be expected from depositing them in London.

84. Such of the manuscript as may appear merely valuable as curiosities, may be transmitted to England by an early opportunity.

85. It is the intention of the Governor-general that the first term of the college should be opened in the course of the month of November, and the lectures in several of the languages may, it is hoped, be commenced in the course of the ensuing winter.

86. With the aid of temporary arrangement as may be immediately made, it is expected that many other branches of the institution may be brought into immediate operation, particularly those which relate to expenses, morals, and general studies of the young men. Fortunately for the objects of the institution, the Governor-general has found at Calcutta, two clergymen of the Church of England, eminently qualified to discharge the duties of provost and vice provost. To the former office he has appointed Mr. Brown, the company's first chaplain, and to the latter Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Brown's character must be well known in England, and particularly so to some members of the Court of Directors; it is in every respect such as to satisfy the Governor-general, that his views, in this nomination, will not be disappointed. He has also formed the highest expectations from the abilities, learning, temper, and morals of Mr. Buchanan, whose character is also well known in England, and particularly to Dr. Porteus, bishop of London,

and to Dr. Milner, master of Queen's College, in the University of Cambridge. With respect to the professorships, those which relate to the languages will be best filled in India, and the Governor-general entertains little doubt that he shall soon be able to fill them permanently in an efficient manner; in the mean while, the most laudable zeal has been manifested by such persons in the civil and military service as are competent to assist the Governor-general in making a temporary provision for the discharge of the duties of these professorships. The persons properly qualified to fill certain of the other professorships must be sought in Europe. The institution will be so framed as to offer strong inducements to such persons, and the Governor-general will endeavour at the earliest period to secure the assistance of talents, learning and morals from Europe, adapted to the great purposes of this institution. It may be useful to observe, in this place, that the professors and native moonshees, or teachers, will be prohibited from instructing any other persons than the students of the college; the object of this regulation is to prevent European parents, resident in India, from attempting to commence or complete, by means of the new institution, the regular education of their children in India: it is an OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY PRINCIPLE of POLICY to ENCOURAGE the PRESENT PRACTICE of SENDING CHILDREN BORN in INDIA, of European parents, at an early age, to EUROPE FOR EDUCATION.

87. The Governor-general means to recommend, that the Court of Directors should hereafter nominate all persons destined for the civil service at any of the presidencies in India, to be students at the college at Fort William: to each studentship (as has been already observed)

will be annexed a monthly salary of 300 rupees, together with apartments and a common table. It will be for the honourable court to decide, whether the ultimate destination of the student to the civil establishment of Bengal, Fort St. George, or Bombay, shall be specified in the original appointment to the studentship at the college at Fort William. It would certainly be more advantageous to the public service, that no such appointments should be made in England, and that the ultimate destination of each student should be determined in India, under the authority of government, on the spot, according to the inclinations and acquirements of the students respectively. The improved state of the civil service at Fort St. George, and the indispensable necessity for introducing the same improvements into the service at Bombay, will speedily render the civil service, at each of those presidencies, no less advantageous and respectable than that of Bengal.

88. The Governor-general highly applauds the wisdom of the late order of the Court, regulating the rank of the cadets for the artillery, according to the period of time when they may be respectively reported to be qualified for commissions, under the institution of the academy at Woolwich. It would be a most beneficial regulation to declare, that the rank of all students appointed to the college at Fort William, in the same season, should be regulated according to their respective progress in the prescribed studies of the college, and to the public testimonials of their respective merit, established according to the discipline and institution of the college.

89. If the Court of Directors should approve the principles and objects of this institution, and should accord-

ingly order the Governor-general to endow it with a rent-charge upon the land revenue of Bengal and Mysore, it would be a gracious act to relieve the civil service from the tax which the Governor-general intends to impose on the public salaries for the support of the college. The tax will indeed be very light; but the Court of Directors may probably be of opinion, that such an institution as the present ought to be SUPPORTED rather by the MUNIFICENCE of the SOVEREIGN of the country, than by any diminution, however small, of the established allowances of the public officers.

*Fort William, Aug.* 18, 1800.

# *A. D.* 1800.—*Regulation.*

A REGULATION *for the Foundation of a* COLLEGE *at Fort William in Bengal, and for the better Instruction of the* JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS *of the Honourable the* ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY, *in the important Duties belonging to the several arduous stations to which the said Junior Civil Servants may be respectively destined in the Administration of Justice, and in the general Government of the British Empire in India.—Passed by the Governor-General in Council, on the* 10*th July* 1800; *corresponding with the* 28*th Assar,* 1207 *Bengal era; the* 4*th Sawun,* 1207 *Fussily; the* 28*th Assar,* 1207 *Willaity; the* 4*th Sawun,* 1857 *Sambut; and the* 17*th Suffer,* 1215 *Hejirah;—But, by his Lordship's special order, bearing date on the* 4*th of May,* 1800, *being the first Anniversary of the glorious and decisive Victory obtained by British Arms at Seringapatam, the Capital of the kingdom of Mysore.*

I. WHEREAS it hath pleased Divine Providence to favour the counsels and arms of Great Britain in India with a continued course of prosperity and glory; and whereas, by the victorious issue of several successive wars, and by the happy result of a just, wise, and moderate system of policy, extensive territories in Hindustan and in the Deccan have been subjected to the dominion of Great Britain, and under the government of the Honourable

the English East India Company, in process of time a great and powerful empire has been founded, comprehending many populous and opulent provinces, and various nations, differing in religious persuasions, in language, manners, and habits, and respectively accustomed to be governed according to peculiar usages, doctrines and laws; and whereas the sacred duty, true interest, honour and policy of the British Nation require that effectual provision should be made at all times for the good government of the British empire in India, and for the prosperity and happiness of the people inhabiting the same; and many wise and salutary regulations have accordingly been enacted from time to time by the Governor-General in Council, with the benevolent intent and purpose of administering to the said people their own laws, usages and customs, in the mild and benignant spirit of the British Constitution; and whereas it is indispensably necessary, with a view to secure the due execution and administration of the said wise, salutary, and benevolent regulations in all time to come, as well as of such regulations and laws as may hereafter be enacted by the Governor-General in Council, that the civil servants of the Honourable the English East India Company, exercising high and important functions in the government of India, should be properly qualified to discharge the arduous duties of their respective offices and stations, should be sufficiently instructed in the general principles of literature and science, and should possess a competent knowledge, as well of the laws, government and constitution of Great Britain, as of the several native languages of Hindustan and the Deccan, and of the laws, usages and customs of the provinces which the said civil servants respectively may be appointed to govern; and

whereas the early interruption in Europe of the education and studies of the persons destined for the civil service of the Honourable the English East India Company, precludes them from acquiring, previously to their arrival in India, a sufficient foundation in the general principles of literature and science, or a competent knowledge of the laws, government and constitutions of Great Britain, and many qualifications essential to the proper discharge of the arduous and important duties of the civil service in India, cannot be fully obtained otherwise than by a regular course of education and study in India, conducted under the superintendance, direction, and control of the supreme authority of the government of these possessions: and whereas no public institution now exists in India under which the junior servants, appointed at an early period of life to the service of the Honourable the English East India Company, can attain the necessary means of qualifying themselves for the high and arduous trusts to which they are respectively destined; and no system of discipline or education has been established in India for the purpose of directing and regulating the studies of the said junior servants, or of guiding their conduct upon their first arrival in India, or of forming, improving or preserving their morals, or of encouraging them to maintain the honour of the British name in India, by a regular and orderly course of industry, prudence, integrity, and religion. The Most Noble RICHARD, MARQUIS WELLESLEY, Knight of the Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, &c. &c. Governor-General in Council, deeming the establishment of such an institution, and system of discipline, education and study, to be requisite for the good government and stability of the British Empire in India, and for the maintenance of the interest and

honour of the Honourable the East India Company, his Lordship in Council hath therefore enacted as follows:

II. A College is hereby founded at Fort William in Bengal, for the better instruction of the junior civil servants of the Company, in such branches of literature, science, and knowledge, as may be deemed necessary to qualify them for the discharge of the duties of the different offices constituted for the administration of the government of the British possessions in the East Indies.

III. A suitable building shall be erected for the College, containing apartments for the superior officers, for the students, for a library, and for such other purposes as may be found necessary.

IV. The Governor-General shall be the Patron and Visitor of the College.

V. The Members of the Supreme Council, and the Judges of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, and of the Nizam Adawlut, shall be the Governors of the College.

VI. The Governor-General in Council shall be Trustee for the management of the Funds of the College; and shall regularly submit his proceedings, in that capacity, to the Honourable the Court of Directors.

VII. The Comptrolling Committee of Treasury shall be Treasurers of the College.

VIII. The Accountant-General, and the Civil Auditor, shall be respectively Accountant, and Auditor of Accounts, of the College.

IX. The Advocate-General, and the Honourable Company's standing Council, shall be the Law Officers of the College.

X. The immediate government of the College shall be vested in a Provost and Vice-Provost, and such other officers as the Patron and Visitor shall think proper to

appoint, with such salaries as he shall deem expedient. The Provost, Vice-Provost, and all other officers of the College, shall be removable at the discretion of the Patron and Visitor.

XI. The Provost shall always be a clergyman of the Church of England, as established by law.

XII. Every proceeding and act of the Patron and Visitor shall be submitted to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and shall be subjected to their pleasure.

XIII. The primary duties of the Provost shall be to receive the junior civil servants on their first arrival at Fort William; to superintend and regulate their general morals and conduct; to assist them with his advice and admonition; and to instruct and confirm them in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrine, discipline, and rites of the Church of England, as established by law.

XIV. The Patron and Visitor shall establish such Professorships with such endowments as shall be thought proper.

XV. Professorships shall be established as soon as may be practicable, and regular Courses of Lectures commenced in the following branches of literature, science, and knowledge:

LANGUAGES.—Arabic, Persian, Sanschrit, Hindustanee, Bengal, Telinga, Mahratta, Tamula, Canara.

Mahommedan Law.

Hindu Law.

Ethics, Civil Jurisprudence, and the Law of Nations.

English Law.

The Regulations and Laws enacted by the Governor-General in Council, or by the Governors in Council

at Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, for the Civil Government of the British territories in India.
Political Economy, and particularly the Commercial Institutions and Interests of the East India Company.
Geography and Mathematics.
Modern Languages of Europe.
Greek, Latin, and English Classics.
General History, ancient and modern.
The History and Antiquities of Hindustan, and the Deccan.
Natural History.
Botany, Chemistry, and Astronomy.

XVI. The Patron and Visitor may authorise the same Professor to read lectures in more than one of the enumerated branches of study, and may at any time unite or separate any of the said professorships, or may found additional professorships in such other branches of study as may appear necessary.

XVII. The Provost and Vice-Provost, after having remained in the government of the College for the complete period of seven years, and any Professor, after having read lectures in the College for the complete period of seven years, or of twenty-eight terms, and after having respectively received, under the hand and seal of the Patron and Visitor, a testimonial of good conduct during that period of time, shall be entitled to an annual pension for life, to be paid either in Europe or in India, according to the option of the party. The pension shall in no case be less than one-third of the annual salary received by such Provost or Vice-Provost respectively during his continuance in the government of the College, or by any such Professor during the period

of his regular lectures. The pension may in any case be increased at the discretion of the Patron or Visitor.

XVIII. All the civil servants of the Company, who may be hereafter appointed on the establishment of the Presidency of Bengal, shall be attached to the College for the first three years after their arrival in Bengal; and, during that period of time, the prescribed studies in the College shall constitute their sole public duty.

XIX. All the civil servants now on the establishment of the Presidency of Bengal, whose residence in Bengal shall not have exceeded the term of three years, shall be immediately attached to the College for the term of three years from the date of this regulation.

XX. Any of the junior civil servants of the Company in India, whether belonging to the establishment of this Presidency, or to that of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, may be admitted to the benefits of the institution, by order of the Governor-General in Council, for such term, and under such regulations, as may be deemed advisable.

XXI. Any of the junior military servants of the Company in India, whether belonging to the establishment of this Presidency, or to that of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, may be admitted to the benefits of the institution, by order of the Governor-General in Council, for such term, and under such regulations, as may be deemed advisable.

XXII. In the College at Fort William, four terms shall be observed in each year; the duration of each term shall be two months. Four vacations shall also be established in each year; the duration of each vacation shall be one month.

XXIII. Two public examinations shall be holden an-

nually, and prizes and honorary rewards shall be publicly distributed by the Provost, in the presence of the Patron and Governors, to such students as shall appear to merit them.

XXIV. Degrees shall be established, and shall be rendered requisite qualifications for certain offices in the civil governments of Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay; and promotion in the civil service shall be the necessary result of merit publicly approved, according to the discipline and institutions of the College.

XXV. Statutes shall be framed by the Provost of the College, under the superintendance of the Governors of the College, respecting the internal regulation, discipline, and government of the College; but no statute shall be enforced until it shall have been sanctioned by the Patron and Visitor. The statutes so sanctioned shall be printed according to a form to be prescribed by the Patron and Visitor.

XXVI. The Patron and Visitor shall be empowered, at all times, of his sole and exclusive authority, to amend or abrogate any existing statute, or to enact any new statute for the regulation, discipline, and government of the College.

XXVII. A regular statement of all salaries, appointments, or removals of the officers of the College, shall be submitted by the Patron and Visitor of the College, at the expiration of each term, to the Governor-General in Council, and by the Governor-General in Council to the Hon. the Court of Directors; printed copies of all statutes enacted by the Patron and Visitor, shall also be submitted to the Governor-General in Council, and to the Hon. the Court of Directors, at the same period of time, and in the same manner.

# PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,

## *SEPARATE.*

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*To our Governor-General in Council, at Fort William, in Bengal.*

Par. 1. We have long had under our consideration, the plan and reasons of Marquis Wellesley for the establishment of a College at Fort William. Although we feel and acknowledge the just merit of the Marquis in the conception of the plan, which breathes a liberal and enlightened spirit, and is enforced with great ability; yet, in the present situation of the Company's affairs, with a debt in India beyond all former amount, and a scarcity of money there beyond all former experience, in consequence of which public credit is depressed, and the investments have either been reduced, or wholly suspended,---we cannot, consistently with our duty, sanction, by our approbation, the immediate establishment of an institution, however we may approve of some parts of it, which must involve the Company in an expense of considerable and unknown amount, and which might be applied to purposes more beneficial for the Company's interests.

2. It has been customary, in considerable undertakings of this nature, previously to form an estimate of the cost, which should have been done on the present occasion, to have enabled us to form a correct idea of the extent and expense of the undertaking.

3. We have perused with particular attention the Governor-general's reasons for founding the College, without any previous reference to us upon the subject. We allow his motives to be laudable; but we cannot sanction a departure from our established system; the tendency of all such deviations is to weaken the authority which is constitutionally placed in this country; for, when measures are once adopted, which either pledge the faith of government, or incur great expense, the exercise of control, in such cases, is in effect frustrated on all important occasions. In future you must, therefore, consider an observance of this system as a primary obligation of duty.

4. Without entering into a particular discussion of the Governor-general's plan, we cannot avoid remarking, that it embraces, in our opinion, more than the situation and circumstances of the Company can at present justify.

5. An establishment founded on principles similar to that proposed by Mr. Gilchrist, in December, 1798, for the institution of a seminary for oriental learning, on a somewhat enlarged scale, we are of opinion would effect many of the beneficial purposes expected by the Governor-general from the establishment proposed by him; and we are the more grounded in this opinion, from the result of the examination of the gentlemen who had studied in the seminary, and which took place in June, 1800, before a committee appointed to ascertain the progress made in their acquirements, in the Hindus-

tanee and Persian languages; from whence it appears, that the students in general manifested such a proficiency as to entitle them to the fullest approbation of the committee; and some of them so much so, as to have greatly exceeded the committee's expectations;---we therefore direct, that you take into consideration the re-establishment of this seminary, which we think may be successfully conducted without any considerable expense to the Company.

6. Although in our letter of the 7th of May, 1800, we approved of the institution proposed by Mr. Gilchrist, and the Governor-general's intention of extending this arrangement on a larger scale, we had no idea that his Lordship's views went to such an extensive establishment as that detailed in his minute of August, 1800: we only then meant to sanction the principles on which Mr. Gilchrist's seminary was instituted, as leading to the acquirement of a more intimate and general knowledge of the common Hindustanee, or colloquial dialect, and of a classical acquaintance with the Persian language. With these studies, it appeared to have been the Governor-general's intention to introduce into the seminary, that of the laws and regulation enacted by the Governor-general in council for the government of our Indian territories: a thorough acquaintance with which we deem indispensably necessary, and which, with the acquirements above stated, will, in our opinion, be attended with the best effects, in qualifying persons in our service for the discharge of their duties, especially if they have received an education in Europe, suitable to the sphere of life in which they are intended to move.

7. An intimate acquaintance with the languages of the country, and a competent knowledge of the laws and

regulations before stated, are, in our opinion, most essential qualifications, and indeed indispensable for the conduct of public business in every department of our government. Of three languages current on the Bengal side of India, the Persian and Hindustanee are necessary for the transaction of business in all offices; with respect to the Bengalese, or provincial language, as a large portion of the revenues is levied on the natives of Bengal, and as their arithmetic is particularly adapted to all the uses to which accounts are applied, and as the language is exclusively spoken by the mass of the people, we conceive that the knowledge of it will be found indispensably requisite to the provincial collectors; nor less so to the civil judges. Such of our servants, therefore, as do not apply to the acquisition of the Bengalese dialect, must submit to consider themselves precluded from holding offices where a knowledge of that dialect is indispensable.

8. Thus educated and instructed, and with the foundation of an improved education in Europe, our servants will enter upon those subordinate offices which they are, by act of parliament, competent to hold, and with advantages which their predecessors never enjoyed; and with a strict attention on the part of our government to enforce the established regulations, and to stimulate industry and exertion, by selecting for promotion such servants as shall distinguish themselves by their superior talents and application, the Company will never, we are convinced, want a succession of servants well qualified for the administration of their affairs in the different departments of government.

9. As it is our intention, by the re-establishment of Mr. Gilchrist's seminary, to supersede for the present

the New Collegiate Institution proposed by Marquis Wellesley, all expenses hitherto incurred on that account will of course immediately cease, and the students from the other presidencies be returned thither by the first convenient opportunities that may offer, after the receipt of this letter. And we cannot dismiss this subject without repeating our high approbation of the public spirit and conspicuous talents of Marquis Wellesley, in the conception and arrangement of a plan, which, under other circumstances of the Company's finances, we should have thought deserving of the most serious consideration.

10. We are pleased to observe, that it was the design of the Governor-general to bestow an early attention upon the state of the Mahommedan college founded in Calcutta, and the Hindu college established at Benares; no institution of that nature, in countries the most enlightened, can be preserved from degenerating without constant inspection. It was appointed in the Hindu college, that annual lectures should be delivered by the professors, and that those lectures, so far as they were on communicable subjects, should be given to the Visitors. In consequence hereof, so long ago as the year 1793, (in the revenue letter of the 25th of June) we required that translations of those lectures might be annually transmitted to us, and also that an annual report should be made to us of the state of the college, and how far it was likely to answer the ends of its institution. To this day we do not find that any communication of this nature has been forwarded to us, which must be owing to a blameable inattention at Benares; whither, doubtless, our orders were transmitted by the supreme government.

11. It is now full time that a review should be taken, as

proposed by the Governor-general, not only of the state, but of the utility derived from those institutions. The one has existed twenty years, and the other nearly ten; and it is a pleasure to us to reflect, that the just principles and enlightened views of marquis Wellesly, will so well qualify him to perform this task.

*London, January 27th,* 1802.

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# LETTER

FROM

# *MARQUIS WELLESLEY*

TO THE

# CHAIRMAN OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS,

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR HAVING
ORDERED THE COLLEGE TO BE ABOLISHED.

*Dated August 5th,* 1802.

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## TO THE CHAIRMAN.

SIR,

1. On the 15th of June, the Governor-general in council received, with the deepest regret and concern, the commands of the Court of Directors, for the immediate abolition of the institution established at Fort William, on the 4th of May, 1800, under the name of the College at Fort William.

2. Although neither the present time, nor the nature of this conveyance, admits of an official reply from the Governor-general in council to the letter of the honourable court, I am anxious to avail myself of the earliest

opportunity of submitting to the court a general view of the principles, by which my conduct has been regulated, and of the measures which I have pursued on this most painful and afflicting occasion.

6. For the purpose of explaining my proceedings in the most distinct manner, it is necessary to advert to the impressions under which the letter of the honourable court appears to have been written, to the supposed facts therein stated, to the inferences therein drawn from that statement, to the sentiments expressed by the honourable court, with regard to the principles and objects of the institution of the college, and to the nature and necessary operation of the orders for its immediate abolition.

4. The letter of the court appears to have been written under an apprehension of the existence of a considerable embarrassment in the situation of the Company's financial affairs in India; and the primary grounds of the honourable court, are stated to be the unexampled amount of the debt, the unparalleled scarcity of money in India, the consequent depression of public credit, and the reduction or total suspension of the commercial investment.

5. The statements of account furnished by this dispatch, and the general tenor of the official advices from this presidency, for the last nine months, will satisfy the honourable court,—

That the augmentation of the resources of the Company in India, has at least kept pace with the growth of the debt;

That the surplus revenue of India, applicable to investment in the current year, amounts to nearly one million sterling; a sum greatly exceeding the amount of surplus revenue applicable to the same purpose in the year 1798-9;

That no such scarcity of money now exists in India, as to depress public credit;

That public credit is now in a state much more favourable than that which existed in 1798-9, or in any year since that time,—and that the general condition of affairs justifies a confident expectation of a progressive improvement in the state of public credit;

That the investment of Bengal, for the current year, is allotted on the high scale of a full investment, or ninety lacs of Sicca rupees;

That the investment of Madras, for the same season, is allotted on the high scale of sixteen and half lacs of pagodas;

That the investment of Bombay, for the same season, is allotted on the scale ordered by the honourable court, of fifteen lacs of rupees;

That no apprehension exists of any probable necessity for reducing the scale of the investments in the ensuing season, and that every circumstance in our situation warrants the assurance, that the investments at all the presidencies will be continued during the continuance of peace, on the scale of the current year;

That, from the combined result of reduction of charges (principally military) and of augmentation of resources, the financial affairs of the honourable Company in India are actually relieved from embarrassment; and that the state of political security established in India, and the prospect of a progressive augmentation in our resources, and of a further gradual reduction of our military charges, afford a rational certainty, that the finances of the Company in India will continue to improve; and that public credit will speedily attain the utmost degree

of prosperity, under circumstances which will ensure its stability.

6. The letter of the court, paragraph 1st. states, that the institution of the college must involve the Company in an expense of considerable and unknown amount; and that this expense might be applied to purposes more beneficial for the Company's interests.

7. The magnitude of the expense of this institution, cannot be justly estimated otherwise than by examining its purposes, objects, and actual, or probable effect; and by comparing the pressure of that expense on the finances of the Company in India, with the proportionate benefit to be derived from the operation of the institution on the whole frame of the government of this empire.

8. If the extent of this benefit should prove answerable to the purposes and intentions of the institution, it might be difficult to fix the precise amount of the price at which it would be consistent with the Company's interests to purchase such a benefit: and it appears still more difficult to conceive any purposes to which money could be applied with more benefit to the Company's interests in India.

9. Prudence would forbid your government in India to incur any expense of considerable and unknown amount, in any branch of the Company's affairs; nor can I imagine any principle of calculation, by which a probable estimate can be formed of the advantage to be derived to the Company's interests, by applying a sum of considerable and unknown amount to any purpose in India.

10. The beneficial application of any sum of money, must be estimated by a comparison between the known

amount of the sum to be expended, and the certain or probable benefit to be attained by such expenditure.

11. But the sum of money applied to defray the charges of this institution, is neither indefinite nor unknown, nor considerable, with relation to the magnitude and importance of its objects and actual effect, nor applicable, with equal prospects of success, to any purposes more beneficial to the interests of the Company.

12. The expense of the institution, in its commencement, was necessarily more considerable than it would have proved hereafter, when the whole system and discipline of the college should have been reduced to regular order. The estimate for 1802-3, is four* lacs of rupees: and it is not probable that this sum would have been exceeded, as the current charges of the college are now fully ascertained, and the mode of managing the institution, in all its branches, is now thoroughly understood.

13. In the time which has elapsed since the institution of the college, many expenses have been incurred, which will not again be requisite; the total expense incurred on account of the college, in the first year of its institution, ending on the 31st of October, 1801, amounted to the sum of about six† lacs, and thirty thousand rupees; after deducting all disposable articles of stock on hand, the value of which amounted, on the 31st of October, 1801, to about two‡ lacs, and seventy thousand rupees.

14. I have stated that the future current annual charges of the college are estimated at four lacs§ of rupees.

* 48,000*l.* † 76,000*l.* ‡ 34,000*l.* § 48,000*l.*

From this sum, however, some deductions are to be made, on account of certain expenses which existed previously to the institution of the college, and which must equally have been incurred, if the college had not been established. These articles are principally the former allowance for moonshees, and the rent of the writers buildings. The aggregate amount of these deductions would be about 70,000 rupees, leaving the total additional annual expense to the Company, on account of the current charges of the college, at the sum of three* lacs, and thirty thousand rupees.

15. As all the students receive an equal allowance of three hundred rupees per mensem, the expense of the increased allowance to the writers attached to the college, from the establishments of Fort St. George and Bombay, would be nearly balanced by the reduction of the allowances of such writers of Bengal, attached to the college, as have completed a residence of two years in the service in India.

16. The expense of conveying the writers from the subordinate presidencies to Bengal, would cease, if the court should agree to my proposition for sending, in the first instance, directly from Europe, to the college of Fort William, all the writers destined for the service of the Company in India.

17. But the Governor-General in Council has already apprised the court, in his letter of 30th July, 1801, that he has actually provided for the current expense of the college by new resources, on which he has expressly charged that expense. Those resources are the town duties and government customs, revived by regulations

* 41,000*l.*

5, 10, and 11, of 1801. The revived duties already produce an annual sum far exceeding the current expenses of the college. The produce of these new duties has been, in 1801-2, twelve* lacs, and seventy thousand rupees; and is estimated, for the current year, at fourteen† lacs. The mode of collecting the duties having been found imperfect, and in some respects inconvenient, under the regulations of 5, 10, and 11, of 1801, a new regulation was passed, for the further improvement of the collection of those duties, on the 8th of July, 1802; under which, the produce of the duties will probably be increased, while every existing inconvenience and imperfection, in the mode of collection, will be removed. The current expense of the college, therefore, now constitutes no additional charge on the Company's revenues in Bengal, as they existed previously to the foundation of this institution; since a new resource has already been found, which actually produces a sum exceeding the amount of that expense.

18. But if this resource should fail, or if the Governor-General in Council should hereafter deem it expedient to repeal or modify these duties, the promising condition of your finances in India, leaves no doubt on my mind, that ample means will be found, independently of the produce of the town duties and government customs, to defray the current expenses of the college, without injury to any other branch of the public service.

19. The commercial investment is estimated, in this year, and in the next, at the highest standard; and notwithstanding those ample allotments for commercial purposes, provision has been secured for defraying the cur-

* 160,000*l*. † 180,000*l*.

rent charges of the college. Neither the continuance, nor the immediate abolition of the college, would affect the investment in any degree, since the investment could not conveniently be augmented beyond its actual scale, even if the abolition of the college had already been accomplished; nor would that scale be reduced, although the college should be continued. The question, therefore, on this part of the subject, is narrowed to the limited consideration, whether it be more beneficial to the Company's affairs, to continue the annual application of a sum of three* lacs, and thirty thousand† rupees, (arising from a new fund, specially charged with this sum, and producing a considerable surplus) to the maintenance of the college, or to add this sum to the general surplus in the treasury, or to the sinking fund. Even if it should be contended, that this sum might be conveniently applied to the increase of the investment, it would remain to be proved that the effect of three lacs and thirty thousand rupees, added to the commercial investment of Bengal, (although raised to ninety lacs) would be more beneficial to the interests of the Company, and of the nation in India, than the operation of the same sum of money applied to defray the current charges of the College of Fort William.

20. The decision of this question will be easily determined, by the examination of some particular facts and general principles of government, to which I shall refer at the close of this letter.

21. With respect to any further expense to be incurred

* 41,000*l.*

† The revenues of the Company's territories amount to *fifteen millions sterling* annually, of which *seven* millions were added by Lord Wellesley.

on account of the college, it must arise from some of these articles:

1st. The augmentation of the number of professorships.

2d. The future pensions of the professors and officers of the college.

3d. A building on a permanent plan.

22. The list of the actual number of professorships, and the statutes, will shew, that it is my intention to render the study of oriental literature and law, the principal object of the college. Few additional professorships, or teacherships, therefore, would have been necessary beyond the number actually filled. The principal would have been,

1. Mahratta language.

2. Ethics, and civil jurisprudence, which might have been united with the English law.

3. The history and antiquities of India, which might perhaps have been united with the preceding branch of instruction.

4. Natural History.

5. Astronomy. These branches, 4th and 5th, might have been united.

23. The institution of any of these professorships, with the exception of the first and second, might have been subject to future consideration. These arrangements, therefore, would have occasioned no variation of importance, in the current charges of the college; and certainly would not have involved an indefinite expense.

24. The probable amount of the future pension list, to the professors and officers of the college, would have afforded no ground of alarm to the court, if the court had considered the age and probable habits and dispo-

sitions of those persons, from whom the greater proportion of the professors and officers of the college must be selected; and it would not be difficult, on correct practical principles, to form a sufficiently accurate estimate of the future amount of this pension list.

25. This part, however, of the regulation, might be modified in its operation, in such a manner as should secure the Company against any considerable burthen on this account.

26. With respect to any building to be erected for the use of the college, the question is, and ever has been, entirely open to the decision of the court; for, although ground has been purchased and allotted for the purpose of a building, no building has been commenced, nor would any have been commenced without the authority of the court. The expense of clearing and draining the ground, and of making roads in its vicinity, has not been great, and has been already defrayed; and the charge of preserving the ground in its improved state, is inconsiderable. The ground now retained, can at any time be sold again without hazard of loss. Many of the most beneficial purposes of the college have certainly been attained, and may probably be secured by the temporary continuance of the present system of the establishment in the town of Calcutta. I am, however, decidedly of opinion, that it would be highly advantageous to the efficacy and stability of the institution, and ultimately most consistent with just economy, to erect a building at Garden Reach, according to my original plan. The expense of this building might be easily defined; and might be gradually distributed through five or six years of account, in such a manner, as scarcely to produce a sensible effect upon the finances of the

Company in India. It is proper, in this place, to communicate to you an addition which will soon be made to the funds of this institution, if the Court of Directors should be pleased to revive it. A sum of three lacs of rupees will soon be paid into the treasury, on account of a legacy from the late General Martine, of Lucknow.

27. I have already taken the most respectable opinions with regard to the legality of applying this sum in aid of the funds of the college; and I have been assured, that such an application of the legacy would be perfectly legal, and strictly conformable to the intention of the testator.

28. This sum, now amounting to three* lacs of rupees, is likely to receive a considerable contingent increase under the operation of other dispositions of General Martine's will. A further increase of these funds may also arise from certain sums bequeathed by General Martine, for the purpose of founding a literary institution at Lucknow. I trust that the nabob vizier, to whose authority the application of these legacies is subject, will readily apply their amount to the support of the College at Fort William.

29. I have already observed, that the court would have possessed ample time for deliberation, with respect to the propriety of erecting a building for the use of the college; in the mean while, the funds to which I have adverted, would have necessarily increased, and might have received considerable augmentation by the contingences which might arise under the various dispositions of General Martine's will.

30. The preceding observations will, I trust, convince you,

* 36,000*l.*

That the expenses already incurred, on account of the college, have not been more considerable than was required by the magnitude of the objects proposed by its institution; and that those expenses have been actually defrayed by the new resources destined to that express purpose;

That the amount of the estimated future current expenses of the college, is accurately defined, subjected to regular control, and moderate, as well with relation to the benefits of the institution, as to its pressure on the finances of the Company;

That provision has actually been secured for defraying the future current expenses of the college, without interfering with any other branch of the public service, without diminishing the scale of your commercial investments, and with the certainty of maintaining a permanent surplus revenue, applicable to the purposes of investment in India, of nearly one million sterling in the present year, and of greater probable amount in every succeeding year of peace.

That any future augmentation of the contingent expense of the college, amounting to any sum of considerable importance, will be subject to the previous control of the government in England.

That funds are actually provided (partly by the new duties, and partly by the legacies of General Martine) sufficient to meet any contingent increase of the expense of the college, without further pressure on the finances of the Company; and lastly,

That the finances of the company in India are in such a state of actual prosperity, connected with the probability of progressive improvement, as will sustain (even independently of the produce of the new duties) the con-

tinuance of the current charges of the College of Fort William, and will afford the means of meeting any contingent increase of the expenses of that institution without injury to public credit, and without the hazard of any delay in the reduction of the Indian debt.

31. In the first paragraph of the honourable court's letter, the court declares, that it cannot sanction the immediate establishment of the institution of the College of Fort William; and in the fifth and subsequent paragraphs, the court directs the re-establishment, on a somewhat enlarged scale, of an institution which the honourable court is pleased to denominate "Mr. Gilchrist's seminary," by the restoration of which, it is stated to be the intention of the court, to supersede, for the present, the establishment of the College of Fort William.

32. By the letter of 12th March, 1802, addressed to Fort St. George, it also appears to be the intention of the court to found some establishment at Fort St. George, for the better instruction of the junior civil servants of that presidency; and it is reasonable to suppose, that similar measures will be adopted for the instruction of the civil servants on the establishment of Bombay.

33. It is, therefore, manifestly the intention of the court, that some establishment for the better instruction of the civil servants, at each of the presidencies, should subsist in India, although the court has been pleased to direct the immediate abolition of that institution which has been established at Fort William, with a view to the same salutary and indispensable purpose. In the letter of the 27th January, 1802, addressed to the Governor-general in council, the court has traced the outlines of the establishment, which it directs to be substituted in

place of the college at Fort William. These intentions of the court, clearly expressed in their commands to Bengal and Fort St. George, reduce the subject of this letter within the limits still more confined than those within which I have endeavoured to comprise my observations in the preceding pages.

34. In considering the question in its present state, it is necessary only to compare the actual expense and ascertained benefit of the institution now subsisting at Fort William, with the probable expense and probable benefit of the seminaries, by which the honourable court intends to supersede that institution. The honourable court in reviving the experimental establishment at Calcutta, originally placed under Mr. Gilchrist's direction, is pleased to sanction an extension of the scale of that establishment, adding to the study of the Hindûstanee, that of the Persian and Bengalese languages; and also that of the laws and regulations enacted by the Governor-general in Council, for the government of the Company's territories in India. It is evident, that without an establishment of teachers or professors, in each of these branches of study, it would be utterly impossible to accomplish the declared intention of the honourable court, "of effecting, by the institution of a seminary for oriental learning, many of the beneficial purposes expected by the Governor-general," from the "foundation of the college." On this augmented scale of Mr. Gilchrist's seminary, each professor or teacher, could not be expected to be engaged at a monthly salary inferior to one thousand five hundred rupees. This charge would amount to six thousand rupees monthly; or to about two-thirds of the total amount of the present salaries to the provost, vice-provost, professors and

teachers in the oriental languages, in classics, in the modern languages, and in mathematics.

35. I am persuaded, that a further consideration of the subject will satisfy the honourable court, that the study of the Arabic language is absolutely necessary to the attainment of a correct knowledge of the Persian; the knowledge of Arabic is also indispensable to those who propose to attain any considerable degree of skill in the Mahommedan law. A teacher or professor of the Arabic must therefore form a part of the establishment in Bengal, even on the limited scale proposed by the court.

36. To the expense of this establishment must be added, the charge of whatever foundations shall be established at Fort St. George and Bombay respectively. Considerations of justice, as well as of policy, would certainly induce the honourable court to afford to their servants, at each of those presidencies, sources of instruction, equally pure and abundant as those which might be opened to the civil service in Bengal. The duties of the civil service, at each of the subordinate presidencies, now embrace objects of equal importance, in every department, to those comprehended in the administration of Bengal.

37. In proportion to the improvement of the internal constitution of each of the subordinate presidencies, qualifications of a higher description will be demanded in the civil service. And I must add, that the progress of that improvement, and the abundant supply of public officers, properly qualified to discharge their arduous duties in the several stations of the administration, are the securities on which the Company must rely for the prosperity of the country, for the happiness of our na-

tive subjects, for the augmentation of our resources, and for the stability of our power.

38. The incontestible wisdom, policy, necessity, and justice, of providing for the civil services of Fort St. George and Bombay, similar advantages of education to those established in Bengal, warrant me in assuming the certainty, that the honourable court will never consent to curtail the institutions proposed for the subordinate presidencies respectively within limits more confined than the necessary extent and scope of the respective duties of the civil service under each of those governments.

39. Consistently with this principle, at Fort St. George, the court will find, that the knowledge of the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstanee languages, and of the laws and regulations of the local British government of India, is not less necessary than in Bengal; teachers or professors must therefore be established at Madras, in each of those branches of study.

40. In addition to these teachers, it will be necessary at Fort St. George, to provide teachers in the following languages: Telinga, Tamul, Canarese, and Mahratta.

41. At Bombay, the knowledge of the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstanee languages, and of the laws and regulations of these governments, is as necessary a qualification for the civil service, as at Fort St. George; and consequently similar means must be afforded (upon the principles already stated) to the civil service at Bombay, of attaining a competent knowledge in each of these branches of study.

42. The study of the Arabic is however peculiarly necessary at Bombay, and may become indispensable in proportion to the extention of our relations with the

nations inhabiting the coast of the Persian and Arabian gulphs.

43. In addition to these establishments, the civil servants at Bombay would require teachers in the following languages: Canarese, Mahratta, and Malabar, as spoken on the coast of that name.

44. You will observe, that the necessary effect of this plan would be to involve the expense of a triple establishment for every branch of study equally requisite at each of the three presidencies; and of a double establishment for every branch of study, equally requisite at any two of the presidencies.

45. In the united institution founded at Calcutta, four professors or teachers would be found sufficient, with occasional assistance, for the instruction of the whole body of the students from the three presidencies, in the Arabic, Persian, and Hindûstanee languages, and in the laws and regulations of the British government in India. If the institution be broken into three seminaries, twelve professors or teachers will be required for the same purpose. The same observation applies to the establishments for the study of those languages, of which the utility is common to Fort St. George and Bombay; one teacher in each branch at Calcutta, would serve for the instruction of all the students from the two subordinate presidencies; on the new plan two teachers must be established, one at Fort St. George, and one at Bombay.

46. It will be manifest, therefore, to your judgment, that the current expenses of these separate establishments at each presidency respectively, framed even on the scale stated in the preceding pages, or on any scale compatible with the attainment of the proposed objects, must equal, and would probably exceed, the total current charges of

the College of Fort William on the highest estimate of those charges.

47. But a more attentive examination of the subject will convince you, that the expense of the three proposed seminaries must far exceed the preceding calculation, and in the same degree must also exceed not only the current charges but the probable amount of the contingent expenses of the College founded at Fort William.

48. The fifth paragraph of the honourable court's letter, is expressed in terms which might convey a supposition that the minute of the Governor-general, under date the 21st December, 1798, originated in some plan of a literary establishment proposed by Mr. Gilchrist; but the minute of the Governor-general of the 21st December, 1798, states distinctly, that my attention had been long directed to the existing defects in the education of the civil service; that I had formed, and had stated verbally in council, the general outlines of an extensive plan for the purpose of remedying those defects, and that the execution of that plan had been delayed exclusively, by the dangers which then menaced the existence of this empire, and demanded my presence on the coast of Coromandel. The minute, and the order in council annexed to it, bear date on the 21st December, 1798. On the 25th I embarked for Madras.

49. The zeal, ability, and diligence of Mr. Gilchrist, as a teacher of the Hindûstanee language, and his eminent merits in forming a most useful grammar and dictionary of that colloquial dialect, induced me to consider him to the most eligible instrument for the purpose of aiding me in attempting an experiment of the practical use of a systematic plan of instruction in the study of the oriental languages.

50. Mr. Gilchrist never offered to my consideration any proposal for the institution of a seminary for oriental learning; that gentleman merely proposed to me the aid of his services, in giving lessons in the Hindûstanee, and in the rudiments of the Persian language, under whatever institution this government might establish. Mr. Gilchrist's laudable offer of the aid of his labours on that occasion, was not only prompt and zealous, but was accompanied by circumstances highly creditable to his liberality and public spirit, to the moderation of his views of private interest, and to his just sense and value of public fame.

51. The result of Mr. Gilchrist's services corresponded with my most sanguine expectations, and proved, in the most satisfactory manner, the great advantages which must result from establishing, for the civil service, a regular and systematic plan of instruction in the oriental languages, in place of the desultory mode of study which had hitherto prevailed under the ordinary practice of resorting exclusively to native moonshees for assistance in learning those languages.

52. Mr. Gilchrist's lessons indeed were more particularly directed to the grammatical study of the Hindûstanee language. That able and indefatigable scholar does not profess to furnish instruction in the Persian language beyond its first elements; and the knowledge of the Persian language, acquired by some of the students under Mr. Gilchrist, was merely elementary; but the examinations holden in July, 1800, and the progress (unexampled until that time) made by some of Mr. Gilchrist's scholars, in the Hindûstanee dialect, and in the rudiments of the Persian language, furnished ample ground for

estimating the benefits which would be derived to the civil service, under the operation of a regular education, not only in the Hindûstanee language, but in every branch of knowledge connected with the public duties of the civil servants.

53. I request you to remark, that in my original minute of December, 1798, I expressly proposed the employment of Mr. Gilchrist, and the future examination of his scholars, with the exclusive view of ascertaining the efficacy of Mr. Gilchrist's mode of instruction.

54. The notification issued at the same period of time, to the civil service in Bengal, is stated, in my minute of 21st December, 1798, to have been proposed as a measure which might be useful; with a view to establish the fundamental principles of the general and more extensive plan at that time in my contemplation.

55. These principles consisted in imposing an obligation upon the civil service, to attend to the study of the oriental languages, and of the laws and regulations of government; and in rendering previous examinations in those studies necessary qualifications for office.

56. The object of this notification was rather to excite the diligence of your civil service, than actually to the examinations announced in that paper; considerable difficulties would have occurred in prosecuting an attempt to enforce such a system of examination. And it was always my opinion, that the existing defects in the qualifications of your civil service could not be corrected effectually, without applying the remedy to the source of the evil—the original education of the writers. The notification of 1798, however, was useful in raising a gene-

ral spirit of attention to oriental knowledge throughout this service.

57. The respectable and learned gentlemen, who formed the committee of examination of Mr. Gilchrist's scholars in July, 1800, refer the benefits to be derived from the progress of Mr. Gilchrist's services directly to the institution of the college; and they justly consider Mr. Gilchrist's lessons to have been merely introductory to the foundation of that institution, and to have furnished the most abundant proofs of its indispensable necessity, as well as of its certain utility and beneficial effect.

58. The letter of the Honourable Court, under date the 7th of May, 1800, approves the principles stated in the notifications of December, 1798, and sanctions the more extensive arrangement intended to be founded on those principles; but that letter contains no reference to the existence of any seminary under the direction of Mr. Gilchrist, as furnishing the model of the establishment which the Governor-General in Council had declared to be in his contemplation.

59. Adverting to these circumstances I should have found considerable difficulty in forming a just conception of the precise intention of the Honourable Court, in directing me to supersede the establishment of the College of Fort William, by the re-establishment of "Mr. Gilchrist's seminary," if the Honourable Court had not been pleased to state, in the 6th and 7th paragraphs of the letter of the 27th of July, 1802, the particular branches of knowledge deemed by the Court sufficient to qualify a civil servant for the administration of affairs in Bengal, and had not thus described the extent and nature of the establishment which it proposed to sanction.

60. But no modification or extension of the plan, under which Mr. Gilchrist was employed in 1799 and 1800, can embrace the objects proposed to be secured by the collegiate establishment at Fort William.

61. It was among the advantages arising from the employment of Mr. Gilchrist, that not only the success of his services was highly beneficial to the extent which it reached, but that the fundamental defects of that limited plan furnished rules for my guidance, in founding a comprehensive and liberal institution on the ground of practical experience.

62. It was found, that the numerous body of young men assembled at Calcutta, for the purpose of attending Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, was exposed to various disadvantages, the effect of which counteracted the assiduity of their teacher, and tended to produce mischiefs of a serious description.

63. The local authority of this great government could not be immediately and constantly applied to controul, among the young men, individual habits of negligence, dissipation, contumacy, extravagance, or immorality. The continual and important avocations of the Governor-General in Council, and the nature and eminence of his station, rendered it impracticable, as well as improper, for him to attempt to exercise the immediate discipline requisite to maintain regularity of conduct and attention to study among such a numerous body of the junior servants. Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, therefore, although highly useful to those naturally disposed to industry or order, furnished no controul or discipline to restrain or correct those of opposite inclinations.

64. The young men of more unsettled dispositions neglected the lectures, and availed themselves of the

residence in this populous town, to indulge in courses of extravagance, expence and dissipation. The limited plan of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures supplied no intermediate and special jurisdiction, placed between the government and the students, to apply, through a respectable channel, the authority of the Governor-General in Council, in enforcing a due system of discipline and study, in regulating private economy and moral conduct, in precluding temptation to expence, and in guarding against every vicious excess.

65. But it cannot be denied, that these objects are of the highest importance, not merely on moral considerations, but in their relation to the political interests and honour of the Company, and of the nation in India; and to the purity and efficiency of the public service.

66. Wherever a numerous body of young men shall be assembled for the purpose of study, whatever form of instruction may be devised for their education, it cannot be expected, that their attention will be systematically fixed on their prescribed duties, unless the discharge of those duties shall be duly enforced by an efficient system of discipline and restraint.

67. These incontrovertible principles, derived from general experience, and confirmed by my personal experience of the dangers to which the young men were exposed, during their attendance on Mr. Gilchrist, induced me to form my general plan, for the better instruction of your civil service, on the basis of a collegiate institution; in which study should be enforced by discipline, and education regulated by efficient restraint; in which, (according to the words of the regulation which the Honourable Court has been pleased to abrogate) "under the superintendance, direction and controul, of the supreme autho-

rity of the government of these possessions, the studies of the junior servants, appointed, at an early period of life, to the civil service of the Honourable the East India Company, should be directed and regulated; their conduct, upon their first arrival in India, guided, their morals formed, improved and preserved;" and in which the junior servants should be "encouraged to maintain the honour of the British name in India, by a regular and orderly course of industry, prudence, integrity and religion."

68. In pursuance of these indispensable objects, the regulation established the offices of provost and vice-provost; and the statutes constituted a council of the superior officers of the college for the internal government of the institution; and it was declared to be the primary duty of the provost, "to receive the junior civil servants, on their first arrival at Fort William, to superintend and regulate their general morals and conduct, to assist them with his advice and admonition, and to instruct and confirm them in the principles of the Christian religion, according to the doctrines, discipline, and rites of the Church of England, as established by law."

69. The statutes also made especial provision for applying the authority of the provost, "to guard the moral and religious interests and character of the institution, by controlling the conduct of the officers, professors, and teachers of the college;" and for applying the internal authority of the superior officers of the college, "to strengthen and confirm, within these possessions, the attachment of the civil servants of the East India Company, to the wise laws and happy constitution of Great Britain: and to maintain and uphold the Christian religion in this quarter of the globe." The statutes also

established a public table, and required the regular attendance of the students at that table for the purpose of precluding habits of debauchery and expence; and the statutes also provided the most effectual restraints which could be devised to prevent the junior civil servants from contracting debt.

70. Without such a vigorous and respectable system of restraint of discipline, it is my conscientious opinion, that great mischief would be infused into your civil servants at its very source, by establishing any seminary of instruction, which should require the whole body of your junior civil servants to continue assembled together for any considerable period of time, in any part of your possessions, and above all, at the seats of the respective presidencies.

71. When the Honourable Court shall have deliberately reviewed the probable consequences of assembling the body of the junior civil servants at each of the presidencies, under such circumstances, I am persuaded, that the Court will issue a positive command to establish, at each presidency, in addition to the necessary teachers and professors, some authority of the nature of that exercised in colleges in Europe, and of that now existing in the college of Fort-William, for the purpose of maintaining and promoting order and discipline, good morals and religion.

72. Having formed a decided judgment, founded on personal experience, and on a most assiduous and deliberate attention to the state of your service, and of your possessions, that the institutions ordered by the Honourable Court will prove not only inefficient, with reference to their proposed objects, but the sources of positive danger to the service, without the additional establishments

described in the preceding paragraphs, my respect for the wisdom, justice, and honour, of the court, demands the conclusion which I have drawn from these premises. I therefore repeat my certain conviction, that the court will immediately command each of their presidencies to incur this additional charge, for the purpose of giving efficiency to the proposed system of study, and of saving the younger branches of the service from the ruinous courses of dissipation, licentiousness, and expense.

73. The seminary to be established in Calcutta, under the late orders of the Court, would necessarily include all the writers for Bengal, according to their successive arrival in India: no material reduction of establishment, or of expense, would therefore be effected at Calcutta, if the public table, and the existing system for the internal government of the College should be maintained, although the writers belonging to the subordinate presidencies should be separated from the institution.

74. On the other hand, the same internal jurisdiction, necessary for the discipline and government of the numerous body of the students of Bengal, would be sufficient to preserve order and regularity in the whole collective body of students from the three presidencies. Neither the government of Fort St. George, nor that of Bombay, could compromise its local authority in enforcing hourly attention to study, and in compelling regularity of individual conduct among the junior civil servants, attached to their respective seminaries of instruction. If, therefore, the writers of Fort St. George and Bombay, should be attached to distinct seminaries at each of those presidencies, each institution must be framed nearly on the model of the College at Fort William, with similar

establishments for the maintenance of the internal discipline and controul, and for preventing expense and debt.

75. Under all these circumstances, the final result of dividing the College of Fort William, into three seminaries, to be established separately at each presidency, would either be to render each and all those seminaries inefficient and dangerous, or to aggravate the collective expense of this triple institution, to an amount greatly exceeding the charges of the united establishment now existing at Fort William.

76. Having thus compared the actual expenses of the College of Fort William, with the probable expense of the establishments, by which the court has been pleased to supersede that institution, I am anxious to direct your particular attention to the benefits already derived to your civil service, from the operation and effect of the system of study and discipline constituted and enforced by the regulations, statutes, and rules, of the College.

77. The periodical examinations of the students, of which the regular reports are transmitted (by the ships Comet and Sovereign) will manifest the progress made by the greater number of the students towards the objects of the institution.

78. The examiners, who have always been selected from the ablest oriental scholars, actually at Calcutta, have invariably expressed their judgment, that the general progress of the students in the oriental languages and literature, has exceeded their most sanguine expectations, as well with reference to the rapidity and extent of the improvement of the students, as to the accuracy and solid foundations of critical knowledge which they have acquired.

79. An universal opinion is received, that the students

of the College now make greater progress in oriental learning, in a few months, than the same persons could have attained in as many years under the former system. This great improvement is attributed not only to the zeal and diligence both of the professors and students, but to the number of useful works published in the College for the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of the several languages, and to the unexampled skill of the professors and teachers in the mode of instruction which they have adopted.

80. The voluntary aid of every respectable oriental scholar in India, has been afforded to support the discipline, and to improve the course of study, and the mode of instruction pursued in the institution; the respectable and dignified character of the institution has interested the literary part of this settlement, not only in promoting its prosperity, but in seeking a station of a public officer of the College as an object of high honour and distinction. In this respect, the comprehensive, munificent, and liberal scale of the establishment, has actually contributed to diminish its current expenses.

81. From the commencement of the institution to the present time, only two professors and two teachers, in the oriental languages, have received salaries. They have been assisted and supported, in the conduct of their respective classes, by the aid of learned gentlemen of high station and character, who certainly could never have been expected to promote with equal zeal, the establishment of a seminary, contracted within more narrow limits, confined to views of less ample extent, and destitute of the energy and respect which accompany a regular system of collegiate discipline, strengthened by the most powerful incitements of immediate public honour

and splendid distinction, and directed to the noblest, the highest, and the greatest object of human pursuit—the good government of a great empire.

82. Formed with these advantages, and accompanied with these circumstances of dignity and respect, the College has received the voluntary aid of Mr. Barlow, Mr. Harington, Mr. Edmonstone, Lieutenant-Colonel Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Colebrooke, each of whom, either have held, or now actually hold, professorships, without salary, under the present structure of the institution. To these are to be added many respectable names of gentlemen who have voluntarily assisted, without reward, in conducting the public examinations.

83. If the scale of the institution be lowered, its authority degraded, and the lustre and magnitude of its character and objects diminished, it must be conducted by instruments duly suited to its reduced importance; and the respectable aid which it has hitherto received from the most able and learned men in India, can neither be justly demanded, nor reasonably expected.

84. The public examinations, the frequent distribution of honorary medals and pecuniary rewards; the encouragement and applause of the whole body of oriental scholars in India, and the peculiar opportunities of conferring eminent distinction, which the present constitution of the College affords to the person exercising the supreme authority in India, have excited a spirit of emulation among the students, as unexampled in its scope and ardour, as it is propitious to the future government of these possessions. This happy spirit is not confined to a few; not to those, whose talents, former acquisitions, habits, or character, appeared to be of the most favourable promise at their entrance into the institution; not

to those, whose connections might be supposed to influence their conduct; it is nearly universal in its operations, and unlimited in its extent; and I must here declare to you, with that freedom which a regard for your interests demands, that the institution (which the court has been pleased to abolish) has already corrected many of the defects which I found in the younger branches of your civil service upon my arrival in India; has already reclaimed to industrious and meritorious pursuits, many of your junior servants, who were disposed to pursue courses of a contrary tendency, and has raised a standard of public honour which is become the general resort of diligence, order, good morals, learning, and religion. The regulations of the College, for the prevention of habits of extravagance and expense, and for restraining young men from contracting debts, have produced a most beneficial effect; and I have the satisfaction to assure you, after an accurate investigation of this branch of the institution, that a general disposition to economy and regularity now prevails among the students at Fort William. That the principles of due subordination have also been established among them with the happiest success; and that the most salutary consequences are visible in their general conduct, manners, and morals. I have no hesitation in declaring, that the young men now composing the body of the students at Fort William, afford the most auspicious hope, that the local administration of India, for several years to come, will be amply provided with instruments properly qualified to accomplish all the purposes of a wise, just, and benevolent government.

85. Considerable force and animation have been derived to the principles of the institution, from the honour-

able contention between the students of the different establishments assembled at Fort William. They consider the character of their several presidencies to be deeply concerned in their respective progress, and in the public distinctions which they respectively obtain.

86. The negligence or disorder of any one member of their body, is felt by the whole as a common disgrace; and they all deem the honour of their particular establishment and their own personal consequence to be involved in the conduct of each individual of their number.

87. The students of Fort St. George and Bombay highly value the advantage of pursuing their studies under the immediate inspection of the Governor-General, and of the chief public officers of the supreme government. It is difficult to describe the degree of alacrity and zeal with which this circumstance alone has inspired the students from the subordinate presidencies; many of whom (it is a matter of satisfaction and just pride to me to assure you) have attained the highest distinctions in the College, and have rivalled the most eminent examples of merit among the civil servants of Bengal.

88. By the influence of these powerful causes, a general attention to oriental languages, literature, and knowledge, has been excited, far beyond the limits of the institution; and the pursuit of these laudable objects has been facilitated and encouraged among many of your civil servants, who could not be admitted within the rules of the College.

The students of Fort St. George and Bombay have also manifested the most favourable disposition to avail themselves, to the fullest extent, of the benefit of an unity of instruction in the principles and practice of the government of Bengal. To this peculiar and inestimable

advantage of the present institution, I request your most serious attention. The administration of the government of Bengal, in all its branches, may justly be considered to furnish a most desirable model for each of the subordinate presidencies. The prosperous issue of the last war in Mysore, combined with the happy result of various political negotiations in the peninsula, has extended the limits of the territorial possessions, under the government of Fort St. George, to a magnitude which nearly equals that of the dominions administered under the immediate authority of this presidency. At this moment the government of Fort St. George is employed, under my orders, in establishing the foundations of an improved code of laws and regulations, and of an entirely new constitution for the due distribution of the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of that extensive and arduous government.

89. The functions of the government of Bombay have recently received a proportionate extension, and the civil servants of the establishment of Bombay are now eligible to some of the most important offices under the immediate control of the government of Fort St. George.

90. In this situation, it is of the utmost importance to the good government of the subordinate presidencies, that the spirit and character of the service in Bengal should be infused into the administration of their respective governments.

91. The salutary effect has already been produced with the utmost degree of facility and security to the extent of that portion of each subordinate establishment now attached to the College of Fort William. Many of these young men are of the highest promise, of the most extensive knowledge, and of the purest principles, ac-

quired, formed, or confirmed, under this institution; and, I doubt not, that they will carry with them, upon their return to their respective presidencies, the fruitful seeds of reform and improvement, for the benefit of each of those yet imperfect systems of administration.

92. The advantages described in the preceding paragraphs, are neither doubtful, remote, nor contingent. Their existence has already been ascertained by public proof; and, to the extent which they have reached, they must produce correspondent effects on the public service at each of the presidencies. It is at least questionable whether, under the proposed system of establishing three distinct seminaries for the instruction of the civil service in Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay, any of these advantages can be attained to an equal extent; it is certain that, under the new system, many of the benefits of the existing institution will be found unattainable in the same extent, and some of the most important, utterly unattainable in any degree.

93. No person, acquainted with the actual state of India, can suppose that the presidencies either of Fort St. George, or of Bombay, can furnish means of instruction in the Arabic, Persian, or Hindustanee languages, or in the system of the laws and regulations for the government of India, equal to those now afforded by the College of Fort William; nor can it be imagined, that either of the subordinate presidencies can attract the resort of learned men to the extent which has been so beneficially effected at Calcutta.

94. With respect to the study of the vernacular dialects, in use within the dominions of each of the subordinate presidencies, it is evident, that the study of those languages may be systematically pursued, with equal ad-

vantage, at Fort William, as at the seats of either of the subordinate presidencies. The study of the elements of those vernacular dialects ought not to supersede the acquisition of those essential parts of oriental literature and knowledge, and of the spirit and general constitution of these governments, which should form the basis of the education of every civil servant in India. In the College of Fort William, the pursuit of all these objects may be advantageously combined; and the degree of attention to be bestowed on each particular language may be properly apportioned, according to the views and destination of the student, under the superintending authority of the College.

95. In the letter of the Honourable Court of the 27th January, 1802, no observation occurs with respect to the necessity of studying the Shanscrit dialect; but I am satisfied that a due enquiry into that branch of the question will convince the Honourable Court, that the study of the Shanscrit is absolutely necessary to those who would obtain a correct knowledge of the Hindu law, or of the manners, customs, usages, and religion of the Hindus. The study of this most ancient language appears to be peculiarly necessary to the civil servants at Fort St. George and Bombay.

96. The Shanscrit dialect being the source and root of the principal vernacular dialects prevalent in the peninsula, a knowledge of the Shanscrit must form the basis of a correct and perfect knowledge of those vernacular dialects. But it would be difficult, if not impracticable, at present, to supply means of instruction in the Shanscrit language at either of the subordinate presidencies, in any degree approaching to the advantages in that branch of study which can now be furnished at Fort William. This

eminent advantage, added to the facility of collecting at Fort William the best teachers in the several vernacular dialects of the peninsula, seems to open to the writers of Fort St. George and Bombay, a more favourable prospect of obtaining a correct, fundamental, and systematic knowledge of the vernacular dialects of the peninsula at Fort William, than could be now expected at their respective presidencies.

97. A source of instruction in oriental literature actually exists at Fort William, which could not be procured without great difficulty and expense at either of the subordinate presidencies. This advantage consists in an extensive and valuable collection of oriental manuscripts, comprising the library of Tippoo Sultaun, and various other collections, some of which have been purchased, and others presented to the institution.

98. Many of the most efficient causes of the extraordinary spirit of emulation, which now exists in the whole body of the students from the three presidencies, collected at Calcutta, could not be supposed to operate with equal force, when the body of the students shall be broken and distributed partially in three distinct and remote seminaries at their respective presidencies.

99. The abatement of this spirit, in any degree, would be injurious not only to the students from the subordinate presidencies, but to those of Bengal. It is, however, reasonable to conclude, that the evil consequences of the separation of the students would be most injuriously felt at Fort St. George and Bombay. The students from those settlements now justly conclude, that their education at Fort William, by bringing their individual merits immediately under the eye of the Governor-general, opens a new field of honourable emolument to their interests, and

a more enlarged career of distinction and fame to their ambition.

100. Various offices, connected with diplomatic stations, and with other employments, principally of a political description, must necessarily remain under the immediate authority and appointment of the supreme government. To these respectable stations the civil servants of all the presidencies are equally eligible; and it cannot fail to furnish a powerful incitement to the diligence and zeal of the students from Fort St. George and Bombay, that the period of their residence at Calcutta opens repeated opportunities of founding claims to such stations on the solid basis of distinction, obtained in the regular course of their studies at the college of Fort William, and of honours publicly recorded on the proceedings of the supreme government.

101. But the most important benefits, which will be forfeited by the separate establishments at the subordinate presidencies, are the uniform education and instruction of the whole body of the civil service in India, in one system of political, moral, and religious principles, derived from a common source, and diffused throughout all the British establishments under the immediate superintendance of the supreme authority in India.

102. It has been a principal object of my attention, since my arrival in India, to consolidate the interests and resources of the three presidencies, to promote in each of them a common spirit of attachment to their mutual prosperity and honour, to assimilate their principles and views, and to unite their respective honours, by such means as might secure their co-operation in the common cause, and might facilitate the management of this extensive empire, in the hands of the supreme government of India. I am

firmly convinced, that a more intimate union of the three establishments, is an object not merely of good policy, and of just economy, but of indispensable necessity to the stability of this empire.

103. The general principles of government (applicable, with few modifications, to every part of the Company's territories) will certainly be studied with most advantage as the mainspring of power in India, and will be circulated to the extremities of the empire with more vigour and purity, in proportion to the early, direct, and free communication between the fountain head of authority, and the subordinate branches of the service.

104. The same advantages will be better secured under a united institution in preserving the attachment of the civil servants of the Company to the political, moral, and religious principles of the mother country.

105. This topic has already been stated by me, in my notes of the 18th of August, 1800. I remain in a firm conviction founded on the experience attained of the effects at the College of Fort William, as well as on the nature and condition of both the subordinate presidencies, that the continuance of the institution at Fort William, will produce upon the general character and efficiency of your civil service (by the diffusion of just and correct principles, of sound knowledge, and of a general spirit of subordination and harmony) salutary effects unattainable under any form of education which shall separate the writers on their first arrival in India, and shall confine them, in detached divisions, to study the local principles, contracted knowledge, and characteristic prejudices and spirit of their respective settlements.

106. These considerations have satisfied my judgment, that the benefits actually derived, and reasonably to be

expected from the operation of the present institution, are and must be greatly superior to any advantage which can be expected from the most complete possible success of the three seminaries proposed by the honourable Court; while the probable expenses of the proposed system must considerably exceed those of the college at Fort William.

107. In directing the immediate abolition of the College of Fort William, the letter of the honourable Court of the 27th January, 1802, appears to acknowledge with approbation the liberal and enlightened spirit of the institution, the just principles on which it is founded, and the important ends to which it is directed.

108. The objections stated by the Court, against the continuance of the establishment, are apparently confined to its expense, and to the pressure of that charge on the present circumstances of the Company's finances in India.

109. Possessed therefore of the Court's approbation of the general principle and objects of the institution; having actually experienced and ascertained its beneficial effects; being satisfied that its expenses can be defrayed without inconvenience to any branch of the Company's affairs, and without any degree of pressure on the finances of the Company in India; being further convinced, that the plan of instruction proposed by the Court in supercession of the College, would exceed the expense which the Court had condemned, and expose to hazard the principles which the court had approved, I might have deemed it to be my duty, under such circumstances, to suspend the execution of the commands of the Court for the abolition of the College, to refer the question to the further pleasure of the Court, and to request that the court would

be pleased to renew the consideration of orders, the declared foundation of which has been entirely removed by the happy change effected in the financial situation of the Company in India.

110. But although the first view of my duty might have suggested the propriety of such reference, the peculiar character and spirit of the court's commands, on this unhappy occasion, and the nature of the institution, (intimately blended with the general subordination of the service) seemed to me to require that I should proceed immediately to the public abolition of the institution, as an act of necessary submission to the controlling authority of the court of directors, and as a testimony of the obedience due to the superior power, placed by law in the government at home; I therefore passed an order in council (on the 24th of June) directing that all expenses incurred on account of the College of Fort William should cease, and that the institution should be abolished; at the same time, I repealed the regulations enacted for the foundation and management of the College, together with all statutes and orders, enacted or passed by the Governor-general in council, or by the visitor, for its discipline and government; but a most serious and difficult question arose, with regard to the time when the abolition of the College, and the repeal of the regulations should take effect, and also when all the expenses of the College should cease, and when the students collected at Calcutta, from the subordinate presidencies, should be returned to their respective settlements.

111. The determination of this question, involved principles deeply affecting the welfare, future prospects, and just expectations of the students, and also the consideration due to the situation of the professors and teachers,

and of the numerous learned natives attached to the institution.

112. If, in pursuance of the orders of the honourable Court, contained in the ninth paragraph of their letter, "all expenses hitherto incurred on account of the College had immediately ceased," the whole system of discipline and order, hitherto maintained by that expence, must, of course, have been instantaneously and abruptly dissolved, and the numerous body of students, now assembled at Fort William, must have been suddenly exposed to all the evils incident to an uncontrolled and unrestrained residence in this populous town, until means could have been found of employing them at distant stations, or of returning them to their several establishments.

113. This sudden dissolution of discipline would have acted with most dangerous and protracted effect on students from the subordinate presidencies, who could not conveniently have returned thither for some time.

114. The revival of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures, on the former plan, would have afforded no remedy to these evils; in order to preserve the young men from exceptionable habits, the controlling authorities of the College must have been revived at the same time. The restoration of those authorities would, in fact, have restored the whole institution, together with all the expenses which the court had ordered immediately to cease. No alternative therefore remained between the instantaneous abolition of the whole institution, and its continuance, with all its present establishments, until the period of time should have elapsed during which it might appear to be necessary and just to detain the great body of the students at Calcutta. And here it is, with pain and

regret, that I feel myself bound, by the most sacred obligations of duty, to claim your attention to the consequences which the immediate execution of the honourable Court's order must have produced upon the honourable and equitable pretensions of the promising young men now attached to the college. Some of these meritorious students have voluntarily relinquished their respective presidencies, and have resigned eligible situations, with the laudable motive of prosecuting their studies in the college for the prescribed time. These students would have completed their course in December next. They expected to receive the reward of their labours at the public examination to be holden at that period of time. On their awarded rank at that examination, they rested their hopes of promotion at their respective presidencies; and they have been further encouraged by the animating hope of seeing, on that occasion, the record of their merits, and the honour of their success, publicly entered on the proceedings of the supreme government, and of being distinguished by the personal approbation of the Governor-general in council.

115. Every principle of wise policy, every real and legitimate interest of the Company, forbids that the industry of a numerous body of the junior civil servants should be discouraged, their honourable ambition frustrated, and their active and laborious emulation disappointed in those fair hopes of distinction which they had been taught to entertain by the laws and orders of this government, and by many preceding examples of successful labour, and rewarded study.

116. In addition to the motives of a wise policy, the considerations of justice, and of humane regard for the interests and feelings of these young men, appeared to

require that the government should not abruptly interpose a sudden act of authority between the termination of their studies and the season of their reward. It would not be strictly conformable to the principles of justice, that the government should have excited among these young men a spirit of diligence and attention to the pursuit of Oriental knowledge, under a public pledge of securing to them, at stated periods of time, special honours and advantages, according to their respective progress, and that the same authority should prematurely intervene to deprive the students of the promised fruits of their exertions.

117. The abolition of the college, therefore, could not have taken place, with justice to this class of students, until the month of December, 1802.

118. But the great body of the students, now in the college, will not have completed their course of study until the month of December, 1803.

119. The sudden abolition of the institution would be still more severely felt by the great body of the students, than by that particular class to which I have adverted in the preceding paragraphs.

120. By the prescribed course of study in the college, the attention of the student is more particularly directed, during the first year, to the Hindustanee and Persian languages. During the latter period of his course, he enters upon the study of the vernacular languages prevalent at the respective presidencies. If, therefore, the great body of the students, now attached to the college of Fort William, should be unseasonably interrupted in the course of their studies, and should be precluded from the advantage of the latter period of their prescribed education, those who should return to Fort St.

George and Bombay, under such circumstances, would necessarily be exposed to embarrassments and disadvantages of the most adverse and discouraging nature.

121. In addition to the premature interruption of their progress at Fort William, their sudden return to their respective presidencies would expose them to the hazard of remaining, for a considerable time, deprived of all efficient means of instruction, in the principal objects of their collegiate course. Some interval of time must elapse before any institution, at either of the subordinate presidencies, could be so far advanced as to afford to these young men means of instruction, even in the vernacular dialects of their respective presidencies, in any degree equal to the facilities now furnished in the college of Fort William. In the mean while, their studies must remain suspended; whereas their continuance at Fort William, until the month of December, 1803, would secure to them such a foundation of knowledge as would enable them to prosecute their studies without further assistance upon their return to Fort St. George or Bombay.

122. These considerations seemed to me to demand that, with exclusive reference to the welfare and just pretensions of the young men now attached to the institution, the abolition of the college of Fort William should be gradual, and that the institution should not be finally closed previously to the month of December, 1803, when the great body of the students now attached to the college will have completed the course which they have so successfully commenced.

123. The immediate abolition of the institution might also be deemed as an act of injustice towards those learned professors and teachers, who have been called from

other situations and pursuits to assist in the management and conduct of this important establishment. It would be equally incousistent with true wisdom, and with the liberal spirit which has ever distinguished the conduct of the Company, in the encouragement of oriental literature and science, to dismiss these gentlemen from their high stations with such a degree of precipitation as might involve their circumstances in embarrassment, and might bear the appearance of harshness and disrespect.

124. Most of these gentlemen have devoted their entire time and labour to promote the objects of the institution, and have withdrawn their attention from every other pursuit: it would not be just to deprive them suddenly of salaries which may be considered, in some degree, as a remuneration for past exertions, and a compensation for the relinquishment of other avocations.

125. The assiduity and learning of these gentlemen have produced several works in oriental languages and literature, which have been published since the commencement of the institution, and which have greatly facilitated its success. Continuations of these useful works are now in a considerable degree of progress. Some works of this nature are actually in the press. At this time the professors and teachers of the Persian, Arabic, Hindustanee, Bengalee, and Shanscrit languages, are each employed in composing grammars or dictionaries, and in making translations or compilations for the use of the students.

126. It is probable that the greater part of these works will be completed in the course of a year. No cause inferior to the pressure of absolute necessity would justify your government in the sudden dismission of a body of learned men, whose labours are now employed

with such utility to the public service, and the continuance of whose exertions in the same field promise to produce such fruits.

127. Many learned natives are now attached to the institution, who have been invited to Fort William, by my especial authority, from distant parts of Asia. These respectable persons have been encouraged, by the prospect of pecuniary and honorary rewards, to undertake works in original composition for the use of the college. They also render considerable service to the professors and teachers in the ordinary duties of the several classes. The expense of rewarding these persons according to their labours, is indispensable to the progress of the young men. The *sudden dismission* of the LEARNED NATIVES, attached to the college, would therefore be an act of *manifest injustice*, on the grounds already stated; it would also be an act of the most *flagrant impolicy*; nor would it be consistent either with the interest or honour of the Company in India, that a numerous body of learned natives, after having been *expressly invited* by the British government to support a public institution, by the aid of their knowledge and talents, should be abruptly deprived of their emoluments, should be denied the opportunity of *completing those works which they had been encouraged* to commence, and should be driven forth to the extremities of Asia, to report in their respective countries, that the British government was unable to support the charges which it had deliberately incurred for the *promotion of learning and virtue;* that we were compelled, by the distress of our finances, to violate our faith with the whole body of oriental scholars in India; and that in the extreme and desperate condition of our affairs, we had *abdicated the support of our recent public*

*institutions, for the liberal education of the civil service, in those branches of knowledge absolutely necessary to secure the blessings of good government to our native subjects.*

128. It is scarcely necessary to repeat, in this place, that the revival of Mr. Gilchrist's lectures would have left all these apprehensions and evils in full force, unless that revival had in fact been equivalent to the restoration of all the establishments of the college.

129. Urged, therefore, by these powerful principles of policy, and by these irresistible claims of justice; on the part of your civil service, actually attached to the college; on the part of the learned gentlemen, whose literary services have been devoted to the aid of the institution; and on the part of the learned natives collected from distant parts of Asia, retained in your service under the solemn pledge of public faith, and now successfully employed in diffusing their knowledge among your junior servants, I have resolved, that the order passed by the Governor-General in Council, for the abolition of the College of Fort William, should not take full effect until the 31st of December, 1803.

130. In the mean while, I have issued orders to the governments of Fort St. George and Bombay, directing that such writers of this season, as had arrived at those presidencies respectively from Europe, should be retained; and that no writers belonging to the establishment of either of the subordinate presidencies, should be conveyed to the College of Fort William, until further orders.

131. According to the regulations and statutes, a considerable number of students, from each of the presi-

dencies, will be detached from the College on the ensuing month of December.

132. The operation of the circumstances described in the two preceding paragraphs, will tend to diminish the expenses of the College during the ensuing year. I have, however, judged it to be proper to direct, that such writers as shall arrive in Bengal, with appointments to this establishment, shall be attached to the College, upon their arrival, and shall be admitted to all the benefits of the institution, until the time of its final abolition.

133. I shall issue to the governments of Fort St. George and Bombay, such orders as shall appear to me most conducive to the better instruction of the junior civil servants, retained at each presidency during the ensuing year, and I shall pass such regulations as may be calculated to protect the Company against any considerable expense, from the detention of the writers at each presidency. I am, however, aware, that some inconvenience must necessarily attend the detention of these young men, at their respective presidencies, until the further pleasure of the court, upon the whole subject, shall be communicated to this government. But this inconvenience is inseparable from the nature of the case; viewed in its utmost possible extent, it admits of no comparison with the important considerations already stated in this letter.

134. Among the motives which induced me to protract the existence of the institution until December, 1803, I have dwelt with considerable expectation on the opportunity which this delay will afford to the honourable court, of reviewing the considerations which dictated their orders of the 27th January, 1802, of adverting to the facts and arguments submitted to you in this letter,

and of estimating the result of the important change, effected in the situation of affairs in India, since the date of those advices, which had reached the court in the month of January, 1802, and which appears to have formed the foundation of the court's letter of the 27th of that month.

135. The honourable court, after the receipt of this dispatch, will be enabled to proceed to a final decision of this important question, with information amply sufficient to illustrate all its essential parts; and if the immediate result of the court's renewed deliberation should be to command this government to accelerate the abolition of the college, and to demolish that institution at any period of time earlier than the 31st of December, 1803, you may be assured, that, in the arduous situation which I now hold, I would manifest a prompt and dutiful obedience to an order, which would be founded on a full knowledge of the state of local circumstances in India, and of all the motives which now direct my opinion and conduct.

136. In such an event, I should certainly discharge my duty with promptitude and dispatch; but I must have renounced the fixed conviction of my judgment, and I must have extinguished the warmest sentiments of my heart, before I could discharge such a duty without suffering the most severe pain and regret, in reflecting on the public benefits which must flow from the establishment of this institution, and on the public calamities which must attend its abolition.

137. The objects proposed by the institution are the most interesting, comprehensive, and important, which could be embraced by any public establishment; and their accomplishment is absolutely requisite for the good government and stability of this empire, and for the

maintenance of the interests and honour of the Company, and of the nation in India.

138. Many of those objects have already been accomplished by the effects of the institution under the eyes of this government, and all of them promise to be secured by the continuance and stability of the same system of discipline and study.

139. With such experience, and with such prospects, I cannot abandon the auspicious hope, that the representation submitted to you in this letter, may prove the means of inducing the honourable court to RESTORE to their civil service in India, the INESTIMABLE ADVANTAGES which must be destroyed by the abolition of the College of Fort William, and to suffer the establishment of the College of Fort William to REMAIN UNALTERED, until I shall have the honour of reporting, in person, to the court, the condition and effects of the institution, and of submitting to you such details as may enable the court to exercise its final judgment on the whole plan.

140. The expense of the institution is greatly overbalanced by the importance and magnitude of its beneficial consequences. I should be guilty of disrespect, as well as of injustice towards the East India Company, if I could suggest that the Court of Directors, with a full knowledge of the objects and principles of this institution, and with ample proofs of its actual success, could now admit an opinion, that the sum of money now requisite to defray its charges, might be applied to any purposes more beneficial to the interests of the Company in India.

141. I therefore close this letter, with a perfect confidence that the honourable court will issue, without delay, a positive command for the continuance of the College of Fort William until further orders; and although my

resignation of the office of Governor-general precludes the hope of my being employed as the instrument for restoring this important benefit to these valuable dominions, I shall embark from India with a firm reliance, that my successor will execute the salutary orders of the honourable court, for the RESTORATION of the College of Fort William with the same sentiments of zeal for the public service, and of attachment to the public interests and honour, which induced me to found that institution.

I have the honour to be,
with the greatest respect, and esteem,
SIR,
Your obedient servant,
WELLESLEY.

*Fort William, Aug.* 5, 1802.

THE END.

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BSB Bayerische StaatsBibliothek
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Wellesley, Richard Colley,

Letters of the Marquis Wellesley respecting the college of Fort William

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